The Most Delectable

# HISTORY

OF

# Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected and Purged, from all grosness in Phrase and Matter.

Augmented and Enlarged with sundry Excellent Morals and Expositions upon every several Chapter.

To which may now be added a Second Part of the said History: As also the Shifts of *Reynardine* the Son of *Reynard* the FOX, Together with his Life and Death, *&c.*

LONDON, Printed by *Tho. James*, for *Edward Brewster*, at the Sign of the *Crane* in St. *Pauls* Church-Yard. 1694.

## *The Epiſtle to the Reader.*

THOU haſt here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleaſant and delightful Hiſtory of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and low ſtile (couched to the natures of Beaſts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morality and hidden Wiſdom, worthy both thy regard in the reading, and thine application in the courſe and commercement of thy Life and Actions: for, the aim at which it bendeth, is the overthrow of Vice, and the advancement of the Good and Virtuous.

Now, foraſmuch as hitherto it hath flown into the World (like *Sybila*'s looſe Papers) covered with much obſcurity and darkneſs: I have for thy more eaſe and con-

 tentment,

tentment, to every ſeveral Chapter, annexed the Morals and Expoſitions of ſuch dark places, as may hold thy Judgment, in ſeeking to find out a Labyrinth ſo dark and curious. A labour, which I doubt not but it will prove both pleaſant and wholeſome, ſince as a friendly Guide it will keep thy meditations from wandring aſtray; and as a pleaſant Companion, hold thee with ſuch delightful diſcourſe, that thy Journey therein will neither be long nor irkſome therein; at which End, if it arrive with a fair ſafety, as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the ſum of my wiſhes, and thy ſelf the proſperity, both of this, and other mens Endeavours.

*Farewell.*

The Pleaſant

# HISTORY

OF

# *REYNARD* the FOX.

## CHAP. I.

How the *Lyon* Proclaimed a Solemn Feaſt at his Court, and how *Iſegrim* the Wolf and his Wife, and *Curtiſe* the Hound, made their Complaints of *Reynard* the FOX.

AMONG the Feaſt of Pentecoſt (which is commonly called Whitſontide) when the Woods are in their luſty-hood and gallantry, and every Tree cloathed in the green and white Livery of glorious leaves, and ſweet ſmelling bloſſoms; and the earth covered in her faireſt Mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much joy entertain with the delight of their harmonious ſongs.

Even at this time and entrance of the luſty Spring, the Lyon the Royal King of Beaſts, to celebrate this holy Feaſt-time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open Court at his great Palace of Sanden; and to that end (by So-

lemn

lemn Proclamation) makes known over all his Kingdom to all beasts whatsoever, that upon pain to be held contemptuous, every one should resort to that great celebration; so that within few days after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great and small, came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.

Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found, but made their several complaints against the Fox: but especially Isegrim the Wolf, who being the first and principal complainant, came with all his lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner:

My dread and dearest Soveraign Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on the great trespasses and unsufferable injuries which

which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your Highnels some tast, know (if it please your Majesty) that this Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of my wife, where finding my Children laid in my quiet couch, he so be-pist them in so rank a manner, that with the sharpnes of his Urine they fell instantly blind: For this offence a day was set and appointed, wherein Reynard should come to excuse himself, and to take a solem Oath that he was guiltles of that high injury: but as soon as the Book was tendred before him (he that well knew his own guiltines) refused to swear, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Majesty and your Laws: This (my dread Lord) may not the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: Nor hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other things he hath trespast against me, which to relate, neither the time nor your Highnes patience, would give sufferance thereunto: suffice it, mine injuries are so great, that none can exceed them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that

*The Moral.*

Howsoever a vicious man perswades himself to escape punishment, by absenting himself from the presence of the Magistrate; yet he deceives himself, & by contempt animates his enemies to be more bold in their complaints against him, as appears herein.

that I can never bide nor suffer it unrevenged, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Majesty merry. When the Wolf had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curtise, who stepping forth, made likewise a grievous complaint (unto the King) against the Fox, saying, that in the extream cold season of the winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and de-

tained from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustain his life, than one poor Pudding, which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.

But

But the Hound could hardly let theſe wo:ds fly from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, in ſp:ang Tibert the Cat amongſt them, and falling down be fo:e the King, ſaid, My Lo:d the King, I muſt confeſs the Fox is here g:ievouſly complained upon: yet were other Beaſts actions ſearched, each would have enough to do fo: his own clearing.

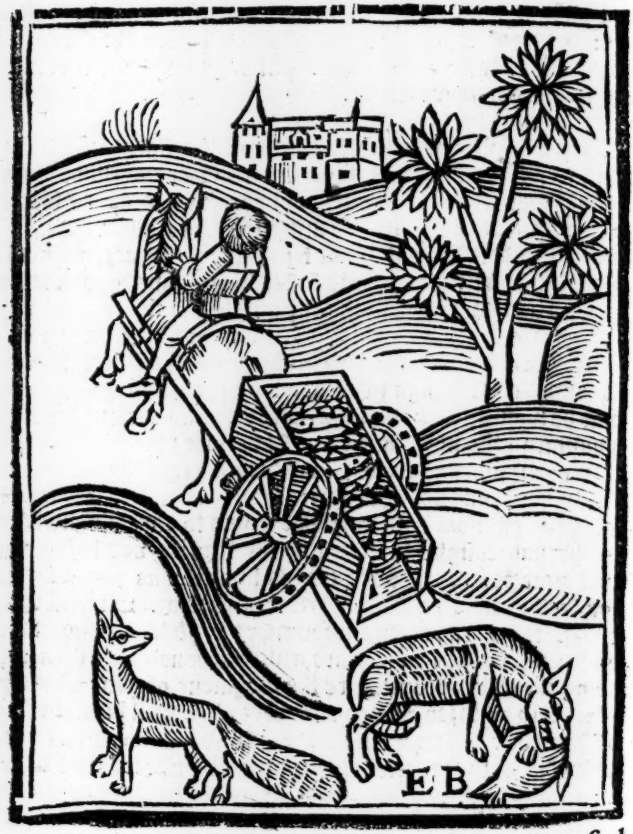
Touching the complaint of Curtiſe the hound, it was an offence committed many years ago: and though I my ſelf complain of no injury, yet was the Pudding mine, and not his: fo: I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay aſleep: ſo that if Curtiſe could challenge any ſhare thereof, it muſt be from mine intereſt.

When Panther heard theſe wo:ds of the Cat, he ſtood fo:th and ſaid, Do you imagine Tibert, that it were a juſt o: a good courſe that Reynard ſhould not be complained upon? why the whole Wo:ld knows he is a murtherer, a ravi ſher, and a thief, and that indeed he lo:eth not truly any Creature, no not his Majeſty himſelf, but would ſuffer his highneſs to loſe both Honour and Renown, ſo that he might there by attain to himſelf but ſo much as the leg of a fat Hen: I ſhall tell you what I ſaw him do yeſterday to Kayward the Hare, that now ſtandeth in the Kings Pre ſence: he p:omiſed unto Kayward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplain; he made him come ſit between his legs, and ſing and cry aloud Credo, Credo, my way lay there by, and I heard the ſong: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his firſt note and ſong, and began to play his old deceit: fo: he had caught Kayward by the th:oat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life alſo, as you may ſee by the freſh wound on Kayward at this p:eſent. O my Lo:d the King, if you ſuffer this unpuniſhed, and let him go quit that hath thus b:oken your peace, and p:ophaned your dignity, and doing no right acco:ding to the judgment of your Laws, your Pr:incely childr:en, many years hereafter, ſhall bear the ſlander of his evil. Certainly Panther (ſaid Iſegrim) you ſay true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Juſtice, that deſire to live in peace.

## CHAP. II.

### How *Grimbard* the Brock ſpake for *Reynard*, before the KING.

Then ſpake Grimbard the Brock (that was Reynards ſiſters Son) being much moved with anger, Iſegrim, you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb, Malice never




ſpake

ſpake well, what can you ſay againſt my kinſman Reynard? I would you durſt adventure, that which of you had moſt injured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a felon: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and as much in the Kings favour as you are, it would be too little ſatisfaction for you to ask mercy: you have many times bitten and torn my kinſman with your venemous teeth, and much oftner then I can reckon; yet ſome I will call up to my remembrance.

*The Moral.* Vice is never without his advocate: and be a man never ſo lewd yet he ſhall ſtill find one or other to plead for him, eſpecially where there is either greatneſs or wealth in the offender, or any alliance of blood to thoſe in favour: as appears here by the Brock, which pleads for the Fox; firſt becauſe he was of his kin, and next he was rich, and able to pleaſure him: laſtly, here is to be obſerved, the inſinuation of the advocate, excuſing the Fox's faults with a new form of penitence, cloaking the ills, which nothing ſooner brings a good man to belief and forgiveneſs.

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaice which he threw down from the Cart, when you followed a-loof for fear? yet you devoured the good Plaice alone, and gave him no more but the great bones, which you could not eat your ſelf: the like you did with the fat flitch of Bacon, whoſe taſte was ſo good, that your ſelf alone did eat it up; and when my Uncle asked his part, you anſwered him with ſcorn, Fair young man thou ſhalt have thy ſhare; but he got not any thing, albeit he won the Bacon with great fear and hazard; for the owner came and caught my kinſman in a Sack, from whence he hardly eſcaped with life: many of thoſe injuries hath Iſegrim done to Reynard, which I beſeech your Lordſhips judge if theſe be ſufferable: again, he complaineth that my kinſman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true, and I confeſs Reynard hath lien with her; yet it was ſeven years before Iſegrim did wed her: and if my Uncle out of courteſie did her a pleaſure, what was that to him: ſhe was ſoon healed of her ſore: nor ought he to complain of any thing not belonging to him; wiſdom would have concealed it; for what credit gets he by the ſlander of his wife, eſpecially when ſhe is not grieved?

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me ſeems but a triſle: for if he will learn to read, and read not his leſſon aright, who will blame the School-maſter Reynard if he give him due correction: for if Scholars be not beaten and chaſtiſed, they will never learn.

Laſtly complaineth Curtiſe, that he with great pain had

gotten a Pudding in the Window, being a season in which victuals are hard; me-thinks silence would have become him better, for he had stoln it: and Male quesisti, & male perdidisti, 'tis fit it was evil lost, it was evil won; who can blame Reynard to take stoln goods from a thief? It is reason that he which understands the Law, and can discern right, being of great and high birth, as my kinsman is, do right unto the Law; Nay, had he hanged up Curtise when he took him in that manner, he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice without leave; wherefore for respect to his Majesty he did it not, though he reap little thanks for his labour: alas how do those complaints hurt him: mine Uncle is a Gentleman, and a true man: nor can he endure falshood: he doth nothing without the council of the Priest: and I affirm, since my Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought to hurt any man: for he eateth but once a day, he liveth as a Recluse, he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of haircloth: it is a year since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly informed by them that came but yesterday from him) he hath forsaken his Castle Malepardus, and abandoned all Royalty, a poor Hermitage retains him: hunting he hath forsworn, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only by alms and good mens charities; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he is become pale and lean with praying and fasting, for he would fain be with God.

Thus whilst Grimbard his Nephew stood Preaching, they perceive coming down the hill unto them, stout Chantecleer the Cock, who brought upon a Bier, a dead Hen, of whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and it was brought to the King to have knowledg thereof.

## CHAP. III.

### *Chantecleer* the Cock complained of *Reynard* the FOX.

CHANTECLEER marched foremost, smote piteously his hands a feathers, whilst on the other side the Bier, went two

two ſorrowful Hens, the one was Coppel the other the good Hen Cragant, being two of the faireſt Hens between Holland and Arden: theſe Hens bore each of them a ſtraight bright burning Taper, and theſe Hens were ſiſter to Coppel (which lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried, Alack, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppel our dear

*The Moral.* When wicked men cannot compass their wickedness by strong hand, or violence against their enemies: then they study deceits and shifts to entangle them, of all which none is so powerful, as the shew of Religion: for that working upon the easie belief of the simple, makes them many times ship themselves into the rough Seas, whence there is no help, but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to believe the subtile Fox. Also in this a man may see, that though an evil man may be now and then excused of some faults, yet still, he shall not escape being discovered.

dear sister, Two young Hens bare the Bier, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppel their mother, that the hills gave an eccho to their clamour: thus being come before the King, Chantecleer kneeling down, spake in this manner:

Most merciful and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I beseech you to hear our complaint, and redress these injuries which Reynard hath unjustly done to me, and my children, that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of April, when the weather was fair, I being then at the height of my pride and glory, because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight valiant sons, and seven fair daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled, and fenced round about, wherein they had in several sheds for their guard six stout Mastiff Dogs, which had torn the Skins of many wild Beasts; so that my children feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling Traytor, envying their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walls, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogs divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea, once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price of his theft, as his torn skin witnessed; yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pity; yet we were quiet of his trouble a great while after; at last he came in the likeness of a Hermit, and brought me a letter to read, Sealed with your Majesties Seal, in which I found written, that your Highness had made peace throughout all your Realm, and that no manner of Beasts or Fowl should do injury one to another; affirming unto me, that for his own part he was become a Monk or Cloystered Recluse, vowing to perform a daily penance for his sins: shewing unto me his Beads, his Books, and the hair shirt next to his skin; saying in humble wise unto me: Sir Chantecleer, never henceforth be afraid of me, for I have vowed never more to eat flesh.

I am

I am now waxed old, and would only remember my ſoul: therefore I take my leave: for I have yet my noon and my even-ſong to ſay: which ſpake, he departed, ſaying his Credo as he went, and layed him down under a Hauthorn: at this I was exceeding glad, that I took no heed, but went and clocked my children together and walked without the Wall; which

which I shall ever rue: for false Reynard lying under a bush, came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddenly surprised one of my children, which he thrust up in his mail, and bore away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can protect or keep him from us: Night and day he waits upon us with that greediness, that of fifteen of my children, he hath left but four unslaughtered; and yesterday Coppel my daughter (which here lieth dead on the Bier) was after her mother by a Kennel of Hounds rescued from him. This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pity of me, and the loss of my fair children.

---

## The Kings answer to the Cocks complaint: and how they sung the Dirge.

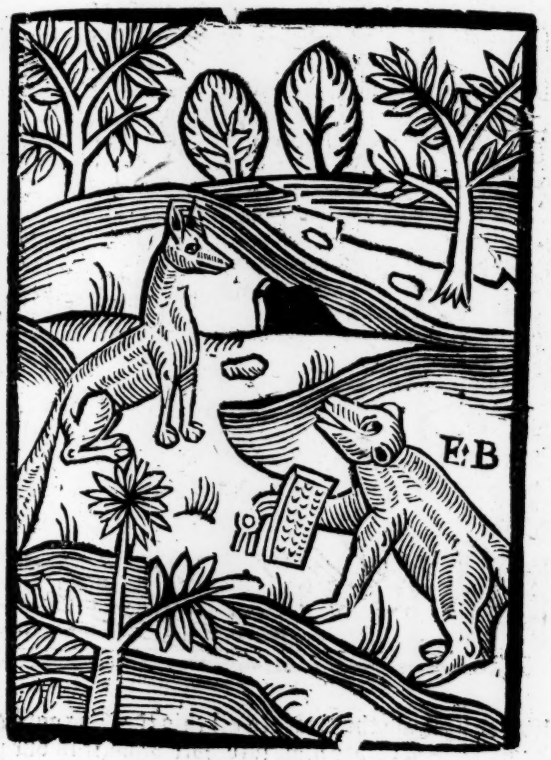
*The Moral.* Here those that excuse bad actions, may see how such offences return to disgrace, because evil mens vices being disclosed, excuses are their shames that make them: as it happned now to the Brock. Also in the Lion may be seen the effects of a good disposition, which is expresst in the honours and rights of burial done to the Hen, which is a satisfaction

When spake the King, Sr. Grimbard, bear you this of your Uncle the Recluse? he hath fasted and prayed well: well believe it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it: as for you Chantecleer, your complaint is heard, and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right burial, and with solemn Dirge bring her to the earth with worship; which done, we will consult with our Lords, how to do you right and justice against the murtherer. Then began the Placedo Domine, with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite: and as soon as the Dirge was done, the body was interred, and upon it a fair Marble stone laid, being polished as bright as glass: in which was ingraven in great letters this inscription following, COPPEL Chantecleers daughter, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth here buried; Mourn thou that Readest it: For her Death was unjust and lamentable. After this, the King sent for his Lords and wisest Councellors, to consult how this foul murther of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King, to answer the trespasses that should

for the grief her kin endured. In the Bear's willingneſs to fetch the Fox, is expreſt how apt a malicious nature is to be employed in any thing that may offend his adverſary, and how commonly ſuch employments miſcarry.

delivered by Bruin the Bear: to all this the King gave conſent, and calling him before him, ſaid, Sir Bruin, it is our pleaſure that you deliver this meſſage, yet in the delivery thereof have great regard to your ſelf: for Reynard is full of policy, and knoweth how to diſſemble, flatter and betray; he hath a world

of ſnares to entangle you withal, and without great exerciſe of judgment, will make a ſcorn and mock of the beſt wisdom breathing. My Lord (anſwered Sir Bruin) let me alone with Reynard; I am not ſuch a truant in diſcretion, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of jollity, the Bear departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well ſpeeding.




CHAP.

## CHAP. V.

### How *Bruin* the Bear sped with *Reynard* the FOX.

THe nert morning away went Bruin the Bear, in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever: and as he came through a dark forest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus; for though Reynard have many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefest and most ancient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruin was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked (sitting on his tail) he called aloud, Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin your Kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you; and hath taken a great Vow, that if you fail to appear to this summons, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness mercy: Therefore, fair Kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the Court, to shun the danger that else will fall upon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custom was, for the warm Sun-sake) hearing these words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, which (labrinth-wise he could pass through, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace (whom he knew loved him not) and himself to honour; at last he came forth, and said, Dear Uncle Bruin, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slowness in coming, for at your first speech I was saying my Even song; and devotion must not be neglected: believe me he hath done you no good service, nor do I thank him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord

*The Moral.* In this Encounter between the Fox and the Bear, is expreſt the diſſimulation of two wicked perſons, each plotting to do the other miſchief: wherein though the wiſeſt commonly get the victory at firſt; yet the juſt cauſe, in the end prevaileth. In the Bears greedineſs to eat honey, is expreſt the laſcivious inconſtancy of a looſe unreſtrained na-

yet at this time my ſorrow is much leſſened, in as much as your counſel at this preſent, may return me double benefit: Alas Uncle! could his Majeſty find no meaner a meſſenger than your noble ſelf to employ in theſe trivial affairs? truly it appears ſtrange to me: eſpecially ſince, next his Royal Self, you are of greateſt renown both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, for I fear our journey will be exceeding troubleſome: for to ſpeak truth, ſince I made my abſtinence from fleſh, I have eaten ſuch ſtrange new meats, that my body is very much diſtempered, and ſwelled as if it would break. Alas, dear Couſin (ſaid the Bear) what meat is this which makes you ſo ill: Uncle (anſwered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was ſimple and mean; we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for neceſſity, which others eat for wantonneſs: yet, not to delay you, that which I eat, was Honey-combs, great, full and moſt pleaſant, which compelled my hunger, I eat too immeaſurably, and am thereby infinitely diſtempered: ah quoth Bruin, Honey-combs; do you make ſuch light reſpect of them, Nephew? what is meat for the greateſt Emperor in the World. Fair Nephew,

phew, help me but to some of that honey, and command me whilst I live; for one little part thereof I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure, said the Fox (Uncle) you but jest with me. But jest with you, replyed Bruin; verily so my heart then: for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick the eof, you shall make me the faithful'st of all your kindred. Nay (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal; only for your love sake, which above all things I desire Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hibla and Portugal, yet I could in a short space eat it all my self. Then know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwelleth a husband-man named Lanfert, whois master of so much honey that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your possession. Bruin mad upon the honey, swore, that to have but one good meal thereof, he would not only be his faithful friend, but also stop the mouths of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his rash belief, said, If you will have seven Tun, Uncle you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well, thought the Fox, this is good fortune; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would perform. The Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the Fox promising him as much honey as he could bear, but meant as many strokes as he could undergo; in the end, they came to Lanfert's-house the sight whereof made the Bear rejoyce. This Lanfert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oak, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges, in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoyced much, for it was answerable to his wish: so that with a smiling countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now, dear Uncle, and be careful of your self; for within this tree is so much Honey, that it is unmeasurable,

ture, that for a minutes enjoying of their own delight, quite forget the business and cares they have in hand. In the Fox is expressed the cunning of wisdom, which ever casts out (to loose nature) those baits of delights, which being swallowed with greediness, do ever choak the swallower, as appeareth by the Bear: who is not only wounded and in danger of his life, but also made a mock and scorn to his enemies. Also by the cruelty used on the Bear by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, every one of what degree soever, from the highest to the lowest, are ready to prosecute and revenge them-

ſelves for the ill they have received.

ſurable, try if you can get into it; yet good Uncle, eat moderately: for albeit the Combs be ſweet and good, yet a ſurfeit is dangerous, and may be troubleſome to your body, which I would not for a World, ſince no harm can come to you, but muſt be my diſhonour. Sorrow not for me, Nephew Reynard (ſaid the Bear) nor think me ſuch a fool, that I cannot temper

per mine appetite It is true, my beſt Uncle, I was too bold; I pray you enter in at the end, and you ſhall find your deſire. The Bear with all haſte entred the tree, with his two feet forward, and thruſt his head into the cleft, quite over the ears: which when the Fox perceived, he inſtantly ran and pull'd the wedges out of the tree, ſo that he locked the Bear faſt therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Bear: for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into ſo faſt a priſon, that it was impoſsible by any Art to free himſelf of the ſame. Alas! what profiteth now his great ſtrength and valour? why, they are both cauſes of more vexation, and he finding himſelf deſtitute of all relief began to howl and bray, and with ſcratching and tumbling, to make ſuch a noiſe, that Lanfert, amazed, came haſtily out of his houſe, having in his hand a ſharp hook, whilſt the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree: which the Fox afar off ſeeing, he ſaid to the Bear in ſcorn, Is the Honey good (Uncle) which you eat? how do you? eat not too much I beſeech you; pleaſant things are apt to ſurfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your belly be full)

he

he will give you drink to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards the Castle. But by this time Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree, he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there; Which being noised throrow all the Town, there was neither man, nor woman, nor child, but ran thither; some with one weapon, and some with another, as Goads, Rakes, Broom-staves, and what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Cross, the Clerk had Holy-water sprinkled; and the Priest's wife, Dame Jullock with her Distaff, for she was then spinning: May, the old Beldams came, that had never a tooth in their heads. This Army put Bruin into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundring upon him, he wrestled and pulled so extreamly that he got out his head, but left behind him all the skin, and his ears also; insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast: for the blood covered all his face and his hands, leaving the claws and skin behind him, nothing remaining but uglines: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to; for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be-cudgell'd him about his body-part, that it might well be a warning to all in misery, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked leg; and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden Mall, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor Sir Bruin; not so much, but Sir Bertolf with the long fingers. Lanfert and Ortam did him more annoyance than all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh-hook, the other a crooked staff well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stab-ball withall: there was Burkin and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest, with his staff, and dame Jullock his wife: all these so be-laboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poor Bear in this Massacre sate and sighed extreamly, groaning under the burthen of their strokes, of which Lanferts were the great-

greatest, and thundered most dreadfully: for dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, and his Father was Marob the Staple-maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruin received of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staff, struck the Bear on the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see; so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adjoining, through a cluster of Wives there standing together, of which he threw divers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how shee floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cryed to the rest of the company, help, oh help! Dame Jullock is in the water, help both men and Women, for whosoever saves her, I give free pardon of all their sins and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard every one left the Bear to help dame Jullock, which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream, and swam away as fast as he could; but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in a great rage, Turn Villain, that I may be revenged of thee: but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was escaped from them: only he bitterly curst the Honey-tree, and the Fox, which had not only betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary: that he went on the Land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face; he groaned, sighed and drew his breath so short, as if his last hour had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his Male, & running through a by-path that no man might perceive him, he came to the River with infinite joy: for he suspected that the Bear was certainly slain; therefore said to himself, My fortune is as I wisht it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead; nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these words looking towards the River, he espied where Bruin the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, silly fool that thou art, what mad-man would

have loſt ſuch good veniſon, eſpecially being ſo fat and wholſom, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand: any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglecteſt. Thus fretting and chiding he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was only guilty; yet in ſcorn he ſaid to the Bear, Monſier, Dieu vous grade. O thou foul red villain, ſaid the Bear to himſelf, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his ſpeech, and ſaid, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanfert,, or have you paid for the honey-combs you ſtole? if you have not, it will redound much to your diſgrace, which before you ſhall undergo, I will pay him for them my ſelf; ſure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more at the ſame price: Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new faſhioned hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Frier? ſurely he that ſhaved your crown, hath cropt your ears, alſo your foretop is loſt, and your gloves are gone; fie ſloven, go not bare-handed? they ſay you can ſing Peccavi rarely. Theſe taunts made Bruin mad with rage; but becauſe he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleaſure: then after a ſmall reſt, he plunged again into the River, and ſwam over the ſtream, and landed on the other ſide, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had loſt his ears, his Talons, and all the ſkin off his feet, ſo that he had a thouſand deaths followed him; he could not go, yet of neceſsity he muſt move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he ſet his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; ſo by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the end he tumbled to the Court; where divers beholding his ſtrange manner of approach, they thought ſome prodigie had come towards them; but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, ſaying, It is Sir Bruin my ſervant, what villains have wounded him thus? or where hath he been, that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Soveraign Lord the King (cryed out the Bear) I complain grievouſly unto you: behold how I am maſſacred, which I humbly beſeech you revenge on that falſe Reynard, who for

doing

doing your Royal pleasure hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. Then said the King, How durst he do this? now by my Crown I swear, I will take revenge, which shall make the Traytor tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Council, and consulted, how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox: where it was generally concluded, that he should be again summoned to appear, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity, as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

## CHAP. VI.

### How the King sent *Tibert* the Cat for *Reynard* the FOX.

Then the King called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and summon him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other Beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fail at the first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him, and his posterity, that his example shall certifie all offenders. Then said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus advis'd you, for there's nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong and mighty, could not inforce him, what will my weakness avail? The King replied, it is your wisdom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength; and many prevail with Art, when violence returns with lost labour: Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heaven make my fortune better than my heart presageth: Thus Tibert made things in readiness, and went to Malepardus, and in his journey, he saw come flying towards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat cried aloud, hail gentle-bird; I beseech thee turn thy wings and fly on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on the left side; then grew the Cat very heavy, for he was wise and skilful in Augurism, and knew the sign

*The Moral.* By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is expresst the care of Governours, that when they have been deceived by the pride and ostentation of such as they did employ, and thought discreet, that then they seek out those that are known wise, and employ them, because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdom. In the Cats much loathness to go, is expresst, the unwilling-

nes a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them: yet when authority commands, they must obey, though never so many dangers attend.

sign to be ominous; nevertheless (as many do) he armed himself with better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found the Fox standing before the Castle-gates, to whom Tibert said, Health to my fair Cousin Reynard: so it is, that the King by me summons you to the Court; in which, if you fail or defer time, there is nothing more assured unto you than a cruel and a sudden death. The Fox answered, Welcome dear Cousin Tibert, I obey your command, and with my Lord the King infinite days of happiness; only let me intreat you to rest with me to night, and take such chear as my simple house affordeth, and to morrowas early as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no Kinsman I trust so dearly as your self. Here was with me the other day, the treacherous Knight Sir Bruin the Bear, who look't upon me with that tyrannous cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire hazard my person with him, but my dear Cousin, with you I will go, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert replied, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and me-thinks it is best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Nay, dear Cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we encounter with our friends; the night is full of danger, and suspitions. Well said the Cat, if it be your pleasure, I am content: what shall we eat? Reynard said truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-comb, too pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replyeth, it is meat I little respect, and seldom eat: I had rather have one Mouse, than all the honey in Europe. A mouse (said Reynard) why my dear cousin, here dwelleth a Priest hard by, who hath a Barn by his house so full of mice, that I think half the Mains in the Parish are not able to bear them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why (said the Fox) but love you mice so exceedingly? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond benison, or the delicatest cates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly forgive you.

CHAP.

## CHAP. VII.

### How *Tibert* the Cat was deceived by *Reynard* the FOX.

THEN said Reynard, Sure you do but jest. No by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so work, that this night will I fill your belly; 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me, said the Fox, for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all speed to the Priests Barn, which was well walled about with a mud-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming; which the false Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and believe it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more mice than you are able to devour: hark, you may hear how they squeek: when your belly is full, come again, and I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that to morrow we may go together to the Court: but good Cousin stay not too long, for I know my Wife will hourly expect us. Then (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise and subtile, and couch their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken. Why Cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward before; what man, fear you a shadow: The Cat ashamed at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently caught fast by the neck in the Grin, which as soon as the Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back again: so that the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so that he began to struggle and cry out, and exclaim most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and heard

heard all, at which he infinitely reioyced, and in great ſcorn ſaid, Couſin Tibert, lobe you Mice? I hope they be well fed for your ſake? knew the Prieſt or Mariner of your feaſting, I know them of ſo good diſpoſition

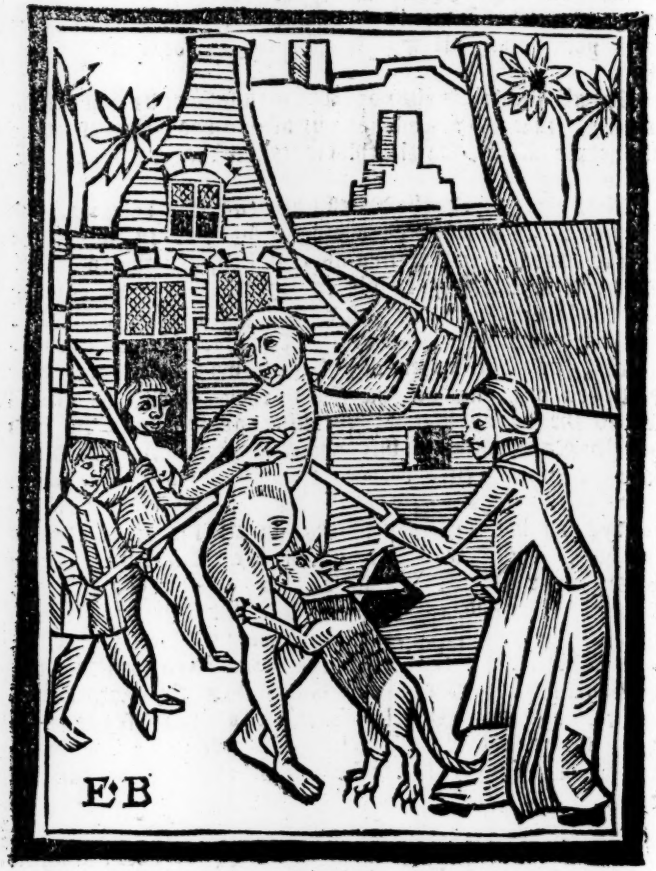
position, they would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court-fashion? if it be, I would Isegrim the Wolf were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together:

But all this while the poor Cat was fast, and mewed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cryed to his people, Arise, for the thief is taken that hath stoln our Hens:

With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up, and awaked all in his house, crying, the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tibert, he smote him with a great staff, and after him many others: so that the Cat received many deadly blows, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cats eyes, which he did to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out the Cats brains: but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priests legs, and with his claws and teeth so fastned on his genitors, that in all the great Turks Seraglio, there was not a clearer Eunuch: which when dame Jullock his wife saw, she cryed out and swore, she had rather have lost the whole Offerings of one seven years, then that one poor little morsel: and withall curst that ever the Gin was invented: and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Fathers delight, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my utter loss for ever: for howsoever he we cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable.

All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed. and laughed so extreamly, that his body was ready to break; saying to Dame Jullock, Fie Woman, do not torment your self so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive one benevolence. Now whilst the Fox thus scoft the Priests Wife the poor

*The Moral.* By the Fox insnaring the Cat, is expresst, how when men will trust their enemies, or give credit to reconciled friends, they evermore miscarry in their designs, and therefore every wise man should so temper his affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power, how agreeable soever it be, either with his nature or his pallat. For the baits of an enemy are only gilded Pills, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By the mischief which the Priest received, is shewed that they which harm watch, harm catch; and that the trap which men now and then set for others, brings hurt to themselves.




poor Prieſt fell down in a ſwound: ſo that every man left the Cat, to revive the Prieſt: which whilſt they were doing, the Fox returned home to Majepardus, for he imagined the Cat was paſt all hope of eſcape: but the poor Cat ſeeing

seeing all his foes busie about the Priest, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had shared it quite asunder in the midst, which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring and tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was far day, and the Sun being risen, he entred the Court, like the pitifullest Beast that ever was beheld. For by the Fox's craft, his body was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and broken; one of his eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw Tibert so pitifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once more, how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbard the Brock Reynard's sisters son, said to the rest of the Kings Council, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice as evil as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against his misdeeds, therefore it is fit you do him Justice as to a man of his rank, which is, he must be the third time summoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. Then the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who should be so desperate to hazard his hands, his ears, nay, his life, with one so tyrannous and irreligious? Truly (answered the Brock) if it please your Majesty, I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtile Kinsman, if your Highness but command me.

## CHAP. VIII.

### How *Grimbard* the Brock was sent to bid the FOX to the COURT.

Then said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtile and malitious: The Brock thanked his Majesty, and so taking his humble leave, went to Malepardus, where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heed fair Uncle, that

*The Moral.* In the sending of the Brock to fetch the Fox, is shewed that when the vicious cannot be overtaken and brought to answer, then it is meet to use their own weapons against them, and with policy, which can no way be better done than by employing their own kindred, and such as they most dearly affect, to perswade them, because Affection is ever a prevailing Orator.

your absence from the Court, and not more mischief to your cause than the offence doth deserve: believe it, it is high time your appear at the Court, since your delay doth bring but more danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of summons. Therefore your to soon may tell you, that if you delay but one day further,

there

there is not left to you or yours any hope of mercy; for within three days your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Therefore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but your discretion shall excuse you; for you have past through many as eminent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Innocency of your cause hath born you spotless from the Tribunal. Reynard answered, Nephew, you say true and I will be advised and go with you; not to answer offences, but in that I know the Court stands in need of my Counsel; the Kings mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majesty, though mine offences were ten times doubled; for I know that the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his Highness understand truly; though I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not, for mine innocence shall awaken their injuries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and Policy, Reynard cannot be missing: They may well harp upon things, but the pitch and ground must come from my relation: It is the envy of others hath made me leave the Court; for though I know their shallowness cannot disgrace me, yet may their multitudes oppress me: Nevertheless (Nephew) I will go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not hazard the welfare of my Wife and Children; the King is too mighty, and though he do me injury I will bear it with patience. This spoke, he turned to his Wife, and said, Dame Ermelin, have a care of my children, specially Reynikin my youngest Son, for he has much of my love, and I hope will follow my steps; and Rossel is passing hopeful, and I love them intirely; therefore regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but my love shall requite you. At this leave-taking, Ermelin wept, and her children howled; for their Lord and victualler was gone, and Malepardus left unprovided.

## CHAP. IX.

### How Reynard shrove him to Grimbard the Brock.

*The Moral.* The shrift of the Fox, sheweth, That when evil men are in danger, then they ever fain most Religion; and by a shew of a penitence, win pity from all those that dive not into the depth of their deceit & knavery. Whereby though they be never so evil, yet they get a good name, and steal opinion of the multitude. By the absolution which the Brock gave the Fox, is shewed how easily an honest simple man may be brought to believe a knaves penance, and how apt they are to forgive trespasses upon fained sorrow; which indeed should not be done without

WHEN Reynard and Grimbard had gone a good way on their journey, Reynard stayed, and said, Dear Nephew, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in great hazard; yet to blot out my sins with repentance, and to cast off the burden, give me leave to shrive my self unto you; I know you are holy; and having received penance for my sin, my soul will be quiet. Grimbard bid him proceed. Then said the Fox, Confessor tibi Pater. Nay, said the Brock, if you will shrive to me, do it in English that I may understand you: Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against all the Beasts that live, and especially mine Uncle Bruin the Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tibert the Cat, whom I ensnared in a grin: I have trespassed against Chantecleer and his Children, and have devoured many of them; nay, the King hath not been quit of my malice, for I have slandered him and his Queen. I have betrayed Isegrim the Wolf, and called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ran in my veins. I made him a Monk of Esmang, where I became also one of the Order, only to do him open mischief. I made him bind his foot to the Bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the Peal had like to have cost him his life; the men of the Parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten therefore, and feeleth the stipes at this instant. I led him to steal Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he fed so extreamly, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Town upon him, and then went where the Priest was set at Meat with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snacht away, so that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never man saw any thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meat from before me: This is a boldness beyond knowledge: and with these words he threw his

a more ſtrict and ſevere examination, The Fox's leading the Brock by the Monaſtry and taking the Capon, ſheweth, that where wickedneſs is rooted and made as it were a habit, that there notwithſtanding all, hypocriſie will ſtill flaſh out, and a knave will be a knave in deſpight of all perſwaſions and good counſel.

his knife at me. But he missed me, and I ran away, while he pursued me, crying, Kill the fox, kill the Fox; and after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where Isegrim was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was too heavy for me (yet much against my will) and then springing through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took up the Hen, he espied Isegrim, and then cried out, Strike, friends, strike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: Then the people came all together, with clubs and staves, and

and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the body, that the Wolf fell down as if he had been dead, which perceided, they took him and drag'd him by the heels over Rocks and stones, and in the end threw him into

into a Ditch without the Village, and there he lay all night; but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seven Cocks and Hens set on a pearch, all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a false door, on which we climbed: Then I told him if he could creep in at that door, he should find the Hens. Then Isegrim with much joy went laughing to the door, and entring in a little, and groping about, he said, Reynard you abuse me, for here is nothing: Then replied I, Uncle they are further, and if you will have them, you must adventure for them: Those which used to sit there, I my self had long since; at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the House, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise, that they which were asleep in the House, awaked and cried, that something was fallen down, at the trap-door; whereupon they arose, and lighted a candle, espying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Atsewinde his wife, of which I must repent me, for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbard, I understand you not, you make your shrift imperfect; for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Pardon me Nephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of Women: This truth is I have lain with her: Thus have I told you my Wickedness, now order my penance as shall seem fit in your discretion. Now Grimbard was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Nephew, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, then lay it down upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bowing of your legs, or stumbling: then shall you take it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of your meekness and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you clear remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbard said unto him, See that henceforth,

Uncle,

Uncle, you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast Vigils, keep holy-days, give alms, and leave your sinful and evil life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall obtain mercy. The Fox promised to perform all this, and so they went together towards the Court: But a little besides the way as they went, stood a Religious house of Nuns, where many Geese, Hens and Capons, went without the wall: and as they went talking, the Fox led Grimbard out of his right way to that place, and finding the Pullen walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddenly leapt, and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears, but the Capon escaped: which Grimbard seeing, said, Accursed man, what will you do, will you for a silly Pullet fall again into all your sins: mischief it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered, Pardon me dear Nephew, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, & mine eye shall no more wander. And then they turned over

a little

a little Bridg; but the Fox still glanced his eye towards the Pullen, but could by no means retrait it, for the ill that was bred in his bones still stuck to his flesh, and his mind carried his eyes that way as long as he could see them: which the Brock noting, said, Fie, unmannerly Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullen? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eyes wandred not, but I was saying a Pater Noster for the souls of all the Pullen and Geese which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you hindered me. Well, said Grimbard, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made hast towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and hainous.

## CHAP. X.

### How the Fox came into the Court, and how he excused himself.

As soon as it was bruited in the Court that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbard his Kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as proudly as ever he was wont, with his Nephew through the streets, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings son, and as clear from trespass, as the most innocent whatsoever: and when he came before the chair of State in which the King sate, he said, Heaven give your Majesty glory and renown above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highness there is never King had a truer servant than my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majesty; but you scorn the slanders of malice, and although in these

*The Moral.* In the Fox his appearing at the Court, is ſhewed, That when a Malefactor is brought before the Juſtice, that then is the fit time for all men that have been injured, to utter their complaints, becauſe then only redreſs is to be had. In the Lion is expreſt the ſtrictneſs of Juſtice, and how terrible it is to every offender, eſpecially ſuch as have the guilt of Conſcience within them. The Foxes bold behaviour ſhewes, That impudent Malefactors when they are called in queſtion, make audacity their chief guard; and by railing againſt their adverſaries, do ſeek to extenuate the looſeneſs of their offences; but Truth and Juſtice will not be hood-winkt.

days, flatterers have the moſt room in Princes Courts, yet with you it is not ſo, nor ſhall they reap any thing but ſhame for their labour. But the King cut him ſhort at theſe words, and ſaid, Peace, traiterous Reynard, I know your diſſimulation, and can expound your flattery, but both ſhall now fail you: think you I can be caught with the muſick of your words? no, it hath too often deceived me: the Peace which I commanded and ſware unto, that have you broken. And

as he would have gone forward, Chantecleer crying out, O how have I lost this noble Peace, he still Chantecleer (said the King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good ones; with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all those wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, whose very wounds yet spit bloody defiance upon thee: and for which believe, thy dearest life shall answer; In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox, My dread Lord, if Bruin's crown be bloody, what is that to me? if your Majesty imployed him in a message, and he would neglect it to steal Honey at the Carpenters house, where he received his wounds, how shall I amend it? If revenge be sought, why did he not take it himself? he is strong and puissant, it was not for to be look't on as my weakness. As for Tibert the Cat (whom I received with all friendship) if he against my will or advice, will steal into the Priests Barn to catch mice, and there lose his eyes, nay his life, wherein is my offence? or how become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may do your Royal pleasure, and however mine innocency plead, yet your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am your vassal, and have no support but your mercy: I know your strength and mine own weakness, and that my death can yield you but small satisfaction: yet whatsoever your will is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake, Bellin the Ram stept forth, and his Ewe-dame Oleway, and besought the King to hear their complaint; with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage: And Tibert the Cat, Isegrim the Wolf, Kayward the Pace, and Panther the Boar, the Cammel, and Bruel the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauldwin the Asse, Bortel the Bull, and Hammel the Ox, the Weasel, Chantecleer the Cock, and Pattlet with all her Children. All these with one entire noise cried out against the Fox, and so moved the King with their complaint, that the Fox was taken and arrested.

## CHAP. XI.

### How the Fox was arreſted and judged to DEATH.

UPon this Arreſt a Parliament was called, and every voice went that Reynard ſhould be executed: notwithſtanding he anſwered every objection ſeveral, though great Art was uſed both in the one and the other, to the wonderful admiration of all that heard him: But witneſſes examined and every proof made pregnant, the Fox was condemn'd and judgment was given, that he ſhould be hanged till his body were dead. At which ſentence the Fox caſt down his head, for all his Jollity was loſt, and no flattery, nor no words now prevailed. This done, Grimbard his Nephew, and divers others near him in blood (which could not endure to ſee him die) took their leave of the King, and departed from the Court. When the King noted what Gallant young Gentlemen departed thence all ſad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood and alliance, he ſaid to himſelf, It behoveth us to take good mature counſel; though Reynard have ſome faults, yet he hath many friends and more virtues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat ſaid to the Bear, Sir Bruin and you Sir Iſegrim, Why are you ſo ſlow in this Execution: the even is almoſt come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he eſcape and quit himſelf of this danger, his ſubtility is ſo great, that not all the Art in the World ſhall ever again intangle him: If you mean to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallows can be made, it will be dark night. At theſe words Iſegrim remembring himſelf, ſaid, There is a pair of Gallows near at hand (and with that fetch'd a deep ſigh) which he noting, ſaid, Are you afraid Sir Iſegrim? or is this execution againſt your mind? you may remember it only was his work, that both your brethren were hanged: and ſure had you Judgment, you would hang him for the ſame, and not thus ſtand trifling time. But Iſegrim, half angry, anſwered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reaſon; yet had we a halter that would fit his neck, we would ſoon diſpatch him. Reynard that had been

ſilent

ſilent a great while, ſaid, I beſeech you ſhorten my pain: Sir Tibert hath a cord ſtrong enough, in which himſelf was

hang'd at the Prieſts houſe, when he bit off the Prieſts genitors: beſides he can climb well and ſwift: Let him be mine Executioner, for it neither beſeemeth Iſegrim nor Bruin thus

to

*The Moral.* By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Cat, in pursuing the Fox to death and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours than their revenges, so blind is wrath, and so deformed it makes men that are cloathed therewith. The Fox's patience and mild temper, shews, That when men are in extremity, they must make use of all their vertues, especially meekness, for that sooneſt doth insinuate with mens natures, and draws forth pity. Whereas roughness ever increaseth mischief.

to do with their Nephew: I am sorry I live to see it. But since you are set to be my hangman, play your parts and delay not: go before Bruin and lead my way: follow Isegrim, and beware I escape not: you say well, said Bruin, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body; when the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed; yet, said, O why do you put your selves (my best Kinsman) to this pain, to do me hurt? believe it I could well ask you forgiveness, though my pains be pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice: as for Bruin and Tibert, I leave my revenge to Justice, and with you the reward of Traitors, if you do not to me the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. Then said Isegrim, let us go, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on the one side, and Bruin on the other, led the poor Fox to the Gallows; Tibert running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobility, took their place to see the Fox die. Then Reynard full of sorrow, and hastily bethinking himself how he might escape that danger, and how to enthral and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himself, Though the King and many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have throughly deserved it; nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said, Sir Bruin, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come we wisht for; Tibert ascend quickly and bring the rope to the gallows,

laws, making a running nooz, for this day you shall have your will of your enemy: and good Sir Bruin take heed he escape not, whilst I my self raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, Now may my heart be heavy, for Death stands now in all his horror before me, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my Soveraign Lady the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Boon, that I may unlock my heart before you, and clear my soul of her burden, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me; which done, my death will be easie, and the Assistance of your prayers will raise my soul to Heaven.

## CHAP. XII.

### How *Reynard* made his Confession before the KING.

EVery creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Help me, Heaven! for I see no man here whom I have not offended: not was this evil unnatural inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this know, I play'd with the Lambs all the day long, and took delight in their pretty bleating; yet at last in my play I bit one, and the taste of the blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it. This liquorish humour drew me into the Woods among the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after, two more, which slaughter made me so hardy, that then I fell to murther Lambs, Geese, and other Poullen. And thus my crimes increased by custom, and fury so possest me, that all was fish that came to my net. After this (in the winter season) I met with Isegrim, whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and laid the Pedigree down so plain, that from that day forth we became fellows and companions: which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters:

he

he ſtole the great things, & the ſmall, he murthered Nobles, & the meaneſt Subjects: and in all his actions his ſhare ſtil

was ever the greateſt: when he got a ram, a Calf o Wether, his fury would hardly afford me the horns to pic on? nay, when he had an Oxe, or a Cow, after himſelf, hi

Wife,

wife and his seven children were served, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speak not in that I wanted (for it is well known I have more Plate, Jewels, and Coyn, than twenty Carts are able to carry) but only to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this infinite Treasure and Riches, his heart grew inflamed with desire thereof: and he said Reynard where is that Treasure you spake of? The Fox answered, My Lord I shall willingly tell you: for it is true, the wealth was stolen, and had it not been stolen in that manner as it was, it had cost your Highness his life (which Heavens I beseech keep ever in their protection.) When the Queen heard that dangerous speech, she started, and said, What dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I do command you upon your souls health, to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing concealed which concerns the life of my dread Lord. The Fox with a sorrowful and sad countenance replied to the Queen, O my dread Soveraign Lady, at what infinite rate were I, if I might live at this present? but gracious Madam, your conjuration, and the health of mine own soul, so prevaileth with me, that I will discharge my conscience, and not speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of damnation. 'Tis true, the King should have been pitifully murdered by his own people, and I must confess, by those of my nearest Kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine own soul, and the fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discovery, said, Is this true, Reynard, which you protest? the Fox answered, Alas, my dread Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poor glass to run: Can your Majesty imagine I will now dissemble? what can the whole world avail me, when my soul perisheth? and at that he trembled, and look'd so pitifully, that the Queen had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his own Royal Person to take some pity of the Fox, and command all his Subjects to hold their peace, and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge: all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my Soveraign

*The Moral.* By the Fox's confession and accusation of his enemies, is expressed a threefold subtility in the Fox: First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed his sorrow for the same, and the little hope he had of life; which piercing into the weak nature of the Queen, being a woman, and subject to pity, begot much compassion towards him 2. The accusing of those whom he was known most assuredly to love, was a mean to draw belief to that he spake. 3. The ingaging of the life of the King and making the treason so foul, was a way to fright the Queen, and others of the like tenderness of heart, and to bring his enemies into disgrace and

Lord the King, and that his Royal life lieth in the balance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capital and foul treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person for any respect whatsoever, whether in blood, greatness, or Authority: Know then, my dread Soverain Lord the King, that my Father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Ermerick's treasure; being a mass infinite and innumerable, of which being possest, he grew so proud and haughty; that he beheld in scorn all the Beasts of the wilderness, which before had been his kinsmen and companions; at last he caused Tibert the Cat to go into the vast Forrest of Arden to Bruin the Bear, and to render him his homage and fealty; saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flanders, where my Father received him nobly. Then presently he sent for his wife, Grimbard my Nephew, and for Isegrim the Wolf, and for Tibert the Cat: then these five sojourning between Gaunt and the Village called Elfe, they held a solemn Council for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my Fathers riches, it was there concluded, that your Majesty should be forthwith murthered, which to effect, they took a solemn Oath in this manner. The Bear, my Father, Grimbard, and the Cat, laying their hands on Isegrim's Crown, swore first to make Bruin their King, and to place him in the Chair of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance they should be gain-sayed, that then my Father with his treasure should hire those that should utterly chase and root them out of the Forrest. Now after this determination help and finished, it hapned that my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high-flown with Wine, he discovered this damnable Plot to dame Slopard his Wife, commanding her upon her life to keep secret the same; but she forgetful of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my Wife, as they went a Pilgrimage over an Heath, with like conjuration of secresie: but she (woman like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledge of all that passed; yet so, that by

all

meanes I muſt keep in ſecreet too: for ſhe had ſworn by the three Rings of Cullen never to diſcloſe it; and withall ſhe gave me ſuch aſſurance by certain tooens, that I right well found all was true which ſhe had ſpoken, inſomuch, that the very affright thereof made my hair ſtand upriget, and my heart became like Lead, cold and heavy in my boſome, which made me call to mind the Story of the Frogs, who being free without ſubjection, complained to Jupiter, and deſired they might have a King to rule and govern over them, and he preſently ſent them a Stork which eat and devoured them up: ſo that by his Tyranny they became the moſt miſerable of all creatures; then they complained again to Jupiter for redreſs, but it was then too late; for they that could not be content with their freedom, muſt now of neceſsity ſuffer in thraldom.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I ſorrowed for your Majeſty, although you little reſpect my grieving: I know that the Ambition of the Bear and his Tyranny is ſo great, that ſhould the Government come into his hands (as Heaven forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be deſtroyed: Beſides, I know your Majeſty of ſo Royal and Princely birth, ſo mighty, ſo gracious, and ſo merciful, that it had been a damnable exchange, to have ſeen a ravenous Bear to ſit in the Throne of a Royal Lion; for there is in the Bear and in his generation, more prodigal looſeneſs and inconſtancy, than in any Beaſt whatſoever.

But to proceed, from this ſorrow I began to meditate how I might undo my Fathers falſe and wicked conſpiracies, who ſought to bring a Traytor and a Slave into the Throne Imperial: for I well perceived, as long as he held the Treaſure, there was a poſsibility of depoſing your Majeſty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, ſo that I laboured how I might find out where my Fathers Treaſure was hid, and to that end I watcht and attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in the open Fields: nay, in all places whereſoever my Father turn'd his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending,

ſcandal, wherein the Fox ſheweth that he which will ſlander, or will have any untruth believed, muſt firſt ſtrengthen his opinion with pity, then get belief, & laſtly exercise his miſchief; againſt all which a wiſe man will ſhut his ears, as the Lion did; if he be not over tempted by thoſe he loves, as the Lion was by the Queen & his own coveteouſneſs, in deſiring that infinite treaſure, than which there is nothing draws a man ſooner to the belief of untruth and of falſhood: for what a man deſires, that his own deſire will make him credit; and where ſuch credit is given, there commonly the wicked eſcape from puniſhment, as here it fel on with the Fox

Now it happened on a time as I was laid flat down on the ground, I ſaw my Father come running out of a hole,

and as ſoon as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to ſee if any diſcovered him; then ſeeing the coaſt clear, he

ſtopped

stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he strooked over, and with his mouth so smoothed it, that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the Village about his private affairs: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtility, I quickly found it out; then entred I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of Treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we ceas'd not day nor night, with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convey away this Treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my Father was in consultation with the rest of the Traytors about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded that Isegrim the Wolf should travel over all the Kingdom, and promise to all the Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruin for their Soveraign, and defend his Title, a full years pay before-hand. And in this journey my Father accompanied him, carrying letters Patents signed to that purpose, while suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which should supply his Treason: when this negotiation was finished between Elve and Soam, and a world of valiant Souldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruin and his Consorts, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedom of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds: so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation, they shewed Bruin the Master-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for here was of Isegrim's lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the action, besides the Bears own kindred, the Foxes, the Cats, and the Mullens, all which would be in readiness upon an hours warning. All this I found

out

out (I praise Heaven) by perfect intelligence: Now things being brought to this perfection, my Father went to his Cave of Treasure: but when he found it open, spoil'd and ransackt, it is not in me to express the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that grief converting to madness, and madness to desperation, suddenly he went to the next Tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art only was the treason of Bruin defeated, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus, the Kings Privatest Council, and sitting in high. These foul Traytors Bruin and Ilegrim, being of great Authority, tread upon me poor Reynard, and work my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my natural Father. O my dread Lord! what is he, or who can tender you better affection, thus to lose himself to save you? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable Treasure from Reynard, took him from the Gibbet, and entreated him to unfold where this great Treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs? shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possest of the good I enjoy? No that's a madness I'le never dye guilty of. Then said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear Faith and true Allegeance to his Majesty. The Fox answered, Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royal nature will give credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was never King so rich as I will make him. Then the King staying the Queen, said, Madam will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his natural quality to lye, steal, and deceive? The Queen answered, my dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for however in his prosperity he was ful of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: Why, he spareth not to accuse his own Father, nay, Grimbard his dearest Nephew and kinsman? had he dissembled, he might have laid his imputation on other Beasts, and not on those he loveth most intirely. Well Madam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offen-

ces

ces of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, That if ever again he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not only himself, but his whole generation, I will utterly root out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, my dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence. Then the King taking a straw from the ground pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he, or his Father, had ever committed: If the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sweetness of life required it: yet he fell down before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for their mercy, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the World. And at these words the Fox took up a straw, and proffered it unto the King, and said to him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majesty to receive this Pledg as a surrender unto your Majesty of all the Treasure that the great King ERMETICK was master of, with wich I freely enfeoffe you out of my meer voluntary and free motion. At these words the King received the straw, and smiling, gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to think of the abuse. From that day forward no mans counsel prevailed with the King as the Foxes; which the Fox seeing, said to the King, My gracious Lord, you shall understand, that at the West side of FLANDERS there standeth a Wood called HUSTERLOE, near which runneth a River named CREKENPIT: this is a Willderness so vast, and unpassable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either Man or Woman in the same. In it have I hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majesty and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in so great a design: and when your Highness comes thither, you shall find two Birchin trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall find the Treasure, which consisteth of the Coyn, rich Jewels, and the

wealthy

wealthy Crown which King Ermetick wore. With which Crown Bruin the Bear should have been Crowned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possest, then remember the love of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your self help to dig for this Treasure, for else I shall never find it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Crekenpit I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said, Is your Majesty so doubtful of my faith? nay, then I will approve my words by publick testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegeance which he bore to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. Then the Fox said, Know you not where Crekenpit standeth? Yes, said the Hare, I have known it any time this Dozen years; it standeth in a Wood called Husterloe, upon a vast and wide Wilderness, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Coyn, with which he supported himself and his fellows: Yet that was before I and King the Hound became companions. Well, said the Fox, you have spoken sufficiently: go to your place again: so away went the Hare. Then said the Fox, my Soveraign Lord the King, what say you now to my relation: am I worthy of your belief or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evil: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I would not fain go with you, if it were so that I might go without your dishonour, which I cannot do: For you shall understand

ſtand (though it be my diſgrace) that when Iſegrim the Wolf, in the Devil's name, would needs grow religious and turn a Monk, that then the portion of meat which was for ſix Monks was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained ſo pitifully unto me, that I commiſerating his caſe, (being my kinſman) gave him counſel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I ſtand accurſed and Excommunicated, under the Pope's ſentence, and am determined to morrow as ſoon as the Sun ariſeth, to take my way towards Rome to be abſolved; and from Rome I intend to croſs the Seas into the Holy land, and will never return again into my Native Country till I have done ſo much good, and ſatisfied for my ſins, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highneſs Perſon. The King hearing this, ſaid, Since you ſtand accurſed in the Cenſures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and ſome other with me to Crekenpit, and only command you, Reynard, as you reſpect my favour, to clear your ſelf of his Holineſs Curſe. My Lord (ſaid the Fox.) it is the only reaſon of my going to Rome; neither will I reſt night nor day, till I have gotten a full abſolution. The courſe you take is good (ſaid the King) go on, and proſper in your intent and purpoſe.

## CHAP. XIII.

### How *Reynard* the Fox was Honoured of all Beaſts by the King's Commandment.

AS ſoon as this Conference was ended, the Royal King mounted upon his high Throne, made in manner of a Scaffold, made of fair ſquare Stone, and then commanded a general ſilence amongſt all his Subjects, and then every one ſhould take his place according to his Birth, or Dignity in Office, only the Fox was placed between the King and the Queen. Then ſaid the King, Hear all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of inferior quality, this Reynard, one of the Chief and Supreme Officers of my

Houſhold, whoſe offences had brought him to the laſt reckoning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Juſtice,

hath this day, in requital of thoſe Injuries, done that Noble and Worthy Service to the State, that both my Self and my Queen, ſtand bound to render him our beſt Grace and Favour. Therefore know, That for divers things

things best known unto Our selves, we have freely given pardon to all his Offences, and restored back to him whatsoever to Us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I Command all of you, upon the pain and hazard of your dearest Lives, That you fail not, from this day forward, to do all Reverence and Honour, not only to Reynard himself, but also to his Wife and Children, whensoever, or wheresoever, you shall meet them, whether by Night or by Day: Nor that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine Ears with any more Complaints of him; for his Wickedness he hath cast behind him, and will no more be guilty of Wrong-doing: which, to effect the better, to Morrow, very early, he taketh his Journey towards Rome, where, from the Pope, he will purchase a Free Pardon and Indulgence for all his Offences, and then the Pilgrimage to the Holy-land. This Speech, when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Bruin, Isegrim, and Tibert, and said, Wretched Creatures! how are your Fortunes changed? or how can you endure to hear these Tydings? Why, Reynard is now a Courtier, a Chancellor, nay, the prime Favourite: his Offences are forgiven, and you are all betrayed, and sold unto Bondage. Isegrim answered, It is impossible, Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: Do not deceive your selves (said the Raven) for it is as true, as that now I speak it. Then went the Wolf and the Bear to the King, but the Cat staid, and was so sore affrighted with the News, that to purchase the Fores Friendship again, she would not only have forgiven the Evils received, but willingly have run into a second hazard. But now Isegrim, with great Majesty and Pride, tracing over the Fields, came before the King and Queen, and with the most bitter and cruel words, inveighed against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moved with displeasure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be presently Arrested upon High-Treason: which suddenly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from

*The Moral.* By this Honour done to the Fox, you may see, that when Policy and Wisdom get the upper hand of their Enemies, it never resteth till it maketh known to the World the greatness of their Conquest, both to express their Ambition, as also to extenuate their Crimes, and keep their Foes in awe with the goodly shews of new Grace and favour. By the Complaint of the Raven, is shewed the Jealousie and Fear of the weaker sort, and how in their Troubles they fly to the Heads of Faction, and stir them with their own safeties to prevent evils. By the Wolf and the Bear's Commitment, is shewed, that when Men

complain in unreasonable times, they ever run them selves into most apparent and grievous mischiefs.

the place where they were couched. For when the Fox had thus intrayled and intangled them, he so laboured with the Queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bear's skin as would make him a large Scrip for his Journey:

which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of Shooes to defend his feet from the stones in his travel: Where-

Whereupon he ſaid to the Queen, Madam, I am your Pilgrim, and if it would pleaſe your Majeſty but to take it into your Conſideration, you ſhall find that Sir Iſegrim hath a pair of excellent long laſting ones, which would you vouchſafe to beſtow upon me, I would pray for your Majeſty's Soul in all my travel about my charitable devotion. Alſo mine Aunt, Dame Arſewind, hath other two Shooes, which would your Majeſty beſtow upon me, I ſhould be moſt infinitely bound to you, nor ſhould you do to her any wrong, becauſe ſhe goes ſeldom abroad. The Queen replied, Reynard, I cannot perceive but you ſhould want ſuch Shooes, for your Journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in reſpect of the ſtony Mountains, and the gravelly Ways; and therefore you ſhall have (though it touch their Life never ſo nearly) from each of them a pair of Shooes, to accompliſh and finiſh your Journey.

## CHAP. XIV.

### How *Iſegrim* and his Wife *Arſewind* had their Shooes pluckt off for *Reynard* to wear to *Rome*.

After the Fox had made this Petition, Iſegrim was taken, and his Shooes pulled off in moſt cruel and violent manner, ſo that all the veins and ſinews lay naked: nor durſt the poor maſſacred Wolf either complain or reſiſt. After he had been thus tormented, then Dame Arſewind, his Wife, was uſed on the ſame manner on her hinder-feet, as her Husband was on his fore-feet; which the Fox ſeeing, ſaid to her in a ſcornful manner, Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my ſake? queſtionleſs you ſhall be a ſharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the Pardon I ſhall bring from beyond the Seas by the help of your Shooes. Then Arſewind (though Speech were troubleſome to her) ſaid, Well, Sir Reynard, you have your will accompliſht; yet Heaven (I hope) will requite the misdeed. This ſhe ſaid, but her Husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and ſurely had the Cat been there

*The Moral.* In the spoiling the Bear of his Skin, and the Wolf of his Shooes, is shewed both the Malice of a revengeful Enemy, that never thinks his Foe weakned enough, till he be utterly ruined; as also the Indiscretion of an over-angry Nature, that cannot stay to give his Wrongs advantage, but utters his Spleen before he can either get relief or remedy. By the Ceremonies done to the Fox, and the Curiosity of the Ram, is shewed, that in cases of indifferency (where Authority hath power to command, for any Man to stand upon nice and puritanical Terms with his Superiors, doth not only breed Reprehension, but Punishment.

also, he had not escap'd some extream punishment. The next Morning, very early, Reynard causing his Shoes to be well oil'd, put them on, and made them as fit to his Feet, as they were to the Wolf, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your poor Subject boweth himself before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highness, to deliver me my Pale and my Staff, blest, according to the custom due unto Pilgrims.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to say solemn Mass before the Fox, and to deliver him his Staff, and his Pale: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Pope's Curse: and the King said, What of that? have not our Doctors told us, That if a Man commit all the Sins in the World, yet if he repent himself, be shriven, do penance, and walk as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him? and hath not Reynard done all this? Then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle herein; yet if your Majesty will bear me harmless against the Bishop of Prendelor (my Ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon of Loos-wind, and Rapiamus his Official, I will effect your Commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I scorn to be beholding unto you: But when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear, and ran presently to the Altar, and sung Mass, and used many Ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more than the desire he had to enjoy the Honour. And when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orisons, he presently hung about Reynard's Neck his Pale, which was made of the Bear's Skin, and put into his right Foot a Palmer's Staff: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart; and fained to weep (though Sorrow and he were never farther asunder) only his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were; yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone)

gone) the King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part thus suddenly: Then said the Fox, There is no remedy, my Lord, nor ought I to be slow in so devout an action. Then the King took leave, and commanded all that were about him (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his Journey. Oh that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staff and his male became him, as also how fit his shooes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have stirred in him very much laughter: Yet the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: however inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast among them; especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be adding to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if they had been his Companions. But the Fox being now onward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your self no further, but have respect to your ease, and the danger that might happen to your Royal Person; for you have Arrested two capital Traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite which might insue thereon. And this said, he stood upon his hinder feet, and intreated the Beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his Pardon, that they would pray for him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: Then turning to Kayward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said, with a smiling countenance, My best Friends, shall we part thus soon? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your Conversations are agreeable to my Nature, for you are Mild, Loving, and Courteous, Religious, and full of wise Counsel, even such as my self was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few green leaves, or a little grass, you are as well content, as with all the bread and fish in the world, and you are temperate and modest: And thus with a world of such like flattering words, he inticed these two, that they were content to go along with him.

By the Fox's Hypocrisie, is seen the dissimulation of worldly Men: and how to effect their mischief to the full heighth, they ever put on a most false cloak of Religion.

By the general attendance of all the Beasts on the Fox is shewed, the Flattery and Baseness of many People, that never look how good a Man is, but how great, and that favour and countenance is ever enough to command all their services.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XV.

### How *Kayward* the Hare was ſlain by *Reynard* the Fox, and ſent by the Ram to the King.

THus marched theſe three together; and when Reynard was come to the gates of his own houſe, he ſaid to Bellin, Coulin, I will intreat you to ſtay here without, a little, whil'ſt I and Kayward go in: for I would have him a witneſs of ſome private paſſages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and ſo the Fox and the Hare went into Malepardus, where they found Dame Ermelin lying on the ground, with her younglings about her, who had ſorrowed exceedingly for the loſs and danger of her Husband: but when ſhe ſaw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. But beholding his male, his ſtaff, and his ſhoes, ſhe grew into a great admiration, and ſaid, Dear Husband, how have you fared? to whom he delivered, from point to point, all that had paſſed with him at the King's Court, as well his danger as releaſe, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left Bruin and Iſegrim to pledge for him till his return: as for Kayward, he ſaid, the King had beſtowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleaſed, affirming, that Kayward was the firſt that had complained of him, for which queſtionleſs he vowed to be ſharply revenged. When Kayward heard theſe words, he was much appaled, and would fain have fled away, but he could not, for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who preſently ſeiſed the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto Bellin for help, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feaſted therewith merrily, eating the fleſh, and drinking the blood to the King's Health. But Ermelin growing ſuſpicious, ſaid, I fear, Reynard you mock me; as you love me, tell me how you ſped at the Court. Then he told her how extreamly he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abuſed them with a fained promiſe of Treaſure, that was not, inſomuch, that he knew when it ſhould come to be revealed,

sealed, the King would seek all the means he could to destroy him. And therefore Wife, said he, there is no remedy but we must steal from hence, into some other Forrest where we

may live in better safety, and in a place more fruitful, where we shall have all the delicatest meats that can be wisht for,

*The Moral.* By the killing of the Hare is shewed, thats whereas men out of the lightness and easiness of their belief, do give credit to the enticements of their Adversaries, new reconciled Friends, that evermore some enevitable mischief doth still follow such folly and improvidence. Also how easily a malicious man can find cause of quarrel with such as are too weak for them, or as eye-sores, stand between them and the end of their purposes; or are able to reveal and hinder their projects. By the Rams carrying the Hares head to the Lyon, and taking upon him to indite the Letters, which he saw not, is discovered, that such vain glorious pick-

purses of others qualities, so ever carry their own shames and disreputations; and when they look for most honour or renown, they reap nothing but misery scorn and disgrace.

clear Springs, fresh Rivers, cool Shades, and wholsome Air; here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my thumb out of the Kings mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his talons. Yet (said Ermelin) I have no fancy to go from hence to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: here we possess all that we desire, and you are a Lord over all that lives about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard to change a certain good for a hoped contentment: besides we are here safe enough, and should the King besiege us never so straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us relief, or liberty. O what reason have we then to flie beyond Seas? but you have sworn it, that is my vexation. Nay Dame (said the Fox) grieve not at that: the more forsworn, the less forlorn: Besides I have heard some say, that a forc'd Oath is no Oath? nor do I make account that this Pilgrimage will avail me a rush. And therefore I am resolved, and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsel: If the King do hunt after me, I will guard my self as well as I am able, and against his Power apply my Policy: so that being forced to open my Sack, let him not blame me if he catch hurt by his own fury.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew exceeding angry both against the Fox and the Hare, that they made him wait so long: and therefore called out aloud for Reynard to come away: which when Reynard heard, he went forth, and said softly to the Ram, Good Billin be not offended, Kayward is in earnest Conferrence with his dearest Aunt, and increated me to say unto you, that if you would be pleased to walk before, he would speedily overtake you, for he is light of foot, and speedier than you: nor will his Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her Children are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) methought I heard Kayward cry for help. How! cry for help! can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far be such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason, as soon as we were come into my house, and that Ermelin my Wife understood of my Pilgrimage, presently she fell down in a swound, which when Kayward saw, he cried aloud,

Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, she dies: Then said the Ram, in sadness I mistook the cry, and thought the Hare had been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the Fox; but before he should have any injury in my house, I would leave to respect either Wife or Children. But letting this discourse pass, You remember Bellin that yesterday the King and his Council commanded me, that before I departed from the Land, I should send unto him two Letters, which I have made ready, and will intreat you my dearest Cousin, to bear them to his Majesty. The Ram answered, I would willingly do you the service, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them in. The Fox said, that is provided for you already, for you shall have my Male, which you may conveniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully received of his Majesty, for they contain matter of great importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox returned into the House, and took the Male, and put therein the Head of Kayward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him a great charge not to look therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings Favour: And that he might farther indear himself with his Majesty, he bade the Ram take upon him the Inditing of the Letters, which will be so pleasing to the King, that questionless he will pour upon you many favours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and thanked the Fox, saying, That the favours he did him should not die unrequired: and I know it will be much to mine Honour, when the King shall think I am able to Indite with so great Perfection: For I know there be many in these days as ignorant as my self, that are risen to high promotion only by taking upon them the worth of other mens Labours. Yet I pray you, Reynard, further advise me, is it meet that I take Kayward the Hare along with me? O by no means (said the Fox) let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will use

yet part with him. Beſides, I have other ſecret things to impart to him, which may not be revealed. This ſaid, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made ſuch ſpeed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, ſitting amongſt the Nobility. The

The King wondred when he saw the Ram come in with the male which was made of the Bears skin, and said, Whence comest thou Bellin? and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered, My dear Lord, I attended the Noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to bear certain Letters to your Majesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highness both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understood all Languages, that he might read them publickly: So he and Tibert the Cat took the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters they drew out the head of Kayward the Hare, at which being amazed, they said, Wo and alass! what Letters call you these? believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murthered Kayward. Which the King seeing he said, Alas! how unfortunate was I to believe the traiterous Fox? And with that being oppress with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: But in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groaned out such a dreadful noise, that all the Beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Firapel the Libard, who was the Kings nearest Kinsman, and said, Why is your Majesty thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral. I do beseech you asswage your anguish: Are not you King and Master of this Country? and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is mischief beyond endurance, I am betraped by a base Villain, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best Friends and Subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel; I mean the stout Bruin, and valiant Isegrim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour; yet in my self I found all unwillingness thereto only my Queens pity, working upon the easiness of my belief, hath made me guilty of that which will evermore grieve me. Why (said the Lybard) what of all this? you are above all your Injuries, and with

one

one smile can salve the greatest wound that can be made in Honour; you have power to recompence; and what reputation is it, that reward will not sawder? As for the Bear that lost his skin, the Wolf and his Wife Dame Arsewind, that lost their Goods, you may in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himself a party in this foul murther) bestow him and his substance upon the parties grieved: As for Reynard, we will go and besiege his Castle, and having arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of Armes without further Triall.

## CHAP. XVI.

How *Bellin* the Ram, and his Lineage, were given to to the Bear and the Wolf.

TO this motion of the Libard the King consented: so that Firapel forthwith went to the Pallace, where the Bear and the Wolf were, and said, My Lords, I being a free and general

general Pardon from the King, and his Love and * recognition of your injuries: which to recompence in some large

manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow upon you both Bellin the Ram, and his whole generation, with whatsoever they possess, and is now confiscate to his Ma-

jesty,

jesty, to hold from henceforth, to you and yours, till Doomsday, with full Commission to slay, kill, and devour them wheresoever you find them, be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. Also the King granteth unto you full power to hunt, kill or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you find him, or any of his Lineage or Generation: And of this great Priviledge, you shall receive Letters Patents at your pleasure, with only a reservation of your safety and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your Honours. Thus was the Peace made between the King and these Nobles, by the Lybard; and Bellin the Ram was forthwith slain by them; and all these Priviledges doth the Wolf hold to this Hour, nor could ever any reconcilement be made between them and the Rams Kindred. When this Peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve days after, which was done with all Solemnity.

To this Feast came all manner of Wild Beasts, for it was universally known throughout the whole Kingdom; nor was there wanting any Delight or Pleasure that could be imagined, as Musick, Dancing, Masking, and all Princely Recreations. As for several Meats, they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a Store house which could not be emptied. Also to this Feast resorted abundance of Feathered Fowl, and all other Creatures that held Peace with His Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox only.

Now after this Feast had thus continued in all Pomp the space of eight days, about high noon come Lapril the Coney before the King and Queen as they sat at Dinner, and with a heavy and lamentable voice, said, My gracious and great Lord have pity upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murther, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me, as I passed by the Castle of Malepardus, where standing without his Gates, attired like a Pilgrim, I supposing to pass peaceably by him toward my Nest, he crost my way, saying his Beads so devoutly, that I saluted

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, between the

head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been stricken from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his clows, though most grievously hurt and wounded

*The Moral.* By the giving of Bellin unto his enemies, is shewed, that when simple men give themselves to pride and vain glory, they are overtaken by their enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction. By the complaint of the Coney, is shewed, that when the weak will believe the fair shews of the strong, and cruel, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they do by some hidden providence, yet it is not without ever some maim, either to their bodies or reputatio.. The complaint of the Rook shews, that when the evil man sleepeth, or seemeth to have least power or intent of wick-

ness, that then his thoughts are most busied and laborious to destroy the innocent; and the mischief is more violent, than when he lyeth most apparent, and publisheth himself an open enemy; wherefore the simple and innocent ought at such times to be most fearful, and to keep farthest out of his danger.

wounded. At this he grieved extreamly, because I escaped, only of one of my ears he utterly deprived me; which I beseech your Majesty in your Royal nature to pity, and that this bloody Murtherer may not live thus to afflict your poor Subjects. Now whilest the Coney was thus speaking to the King, there came flying into the Court, Corbant the Rook, who coming before the King, said, Great King, I beseech you vouchsafe to hear me, and pity the complaint I shall utter: So it is, that I went this morning with Sharpbeak my Wife to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there we found Reynard the Fox laid on the ground like a dead carcass, his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth like a dead wound, so that we wondring at this strange plight, began to feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at all; Then went my Wife (poor careful soul) and laid her head to his mouth, to see if he drew any breath: which she had no sooner done, but the foul murtherer awaiting his time, snatcht her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I screaked out, and cried, Wo is me, what misfortunes are these? But presently the Murtherer starts up, and reached at me with such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish, I was fain to flie up into a Tree, where I saw him devour up my Wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me in the repeating.

The Massacre finished, the Murtherer departed, and I went to the place and gathered the feathers of my lost Wife, which here I humbly present before your Majesty, beseeching you to do me justice, and in such manner to revenge mine injury, that the world may speak fame of your great Excellence; for thus to suffer your Laws, Protections, and safe Conducts to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scandal to your Crown and Dignity, that your very Neighbours and Colleagues will note and point at your remisness: besides the sufferance of the evil will make you guilty of the trespasses which arise from such sufferance: But to your great considerations I leave it, since I know your Majesties own goodness will make you careful of your Honour and Royalty.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XVII.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for revenge; and how *Reynard* was forewarned by *Grimbard* the Brock.

THe Royal King was much moved with anger, when he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the Rook, so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams of Majesty, his countenance was dreadful and cruel to look on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end, he said, By my Crown, and the truth I evermore reverence and owe unto the Queen my Wife, I will so revenge these outrages committed against my Crown and Dignity, that goodness shall adore me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falsehood and flattery shall no more get belief in me.

Is this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy-land? are these the fruits of his Pale, his Staff, and other Ornaments becoming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the perswasion of my Queen: woe am I the first that hath been deceived by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were about him, both Noble, Worthy, and every discreet spirit, to assist him with their Counsel, and to lay him down such sure ground for his revenge, that his Honour and Royalty might be a new revived, and every Offender made to know and feel the heavy price for their most unjust actions.

Isegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but now to gain their full revenge against Reynard; yet still they kept silence, and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moved with their dumbness, and noting that none durst freely deliver their opinions: He began to bend his forehead: But the Queen after solemn reverence, said to the King, Mounsieur, Pour Dieu croyez mei toutes

choſes qu'on vous, & ne jurez point legrement. Sir, It is not the part of any excellent Wisdom, to blieue or proteſt in any thing, till the matter be made manifeſt and apparent to his knowledge: neither ſhould the Iudge lend his eare to any complaint, but one ſole reſerued to entertain the defence of the accuſed. For many times the accuſer preuenteth the accuſed in iniury: And therefore Audite alteram Partem, to hear the other Party, is the act of penſiue Iuſtice:

*The Mor. I.*

The anger of the Lion at the Fox's trespasses, shews the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved and offended, when his good Subjects are injured; and the perswasion of the Queen & the Libard, shews the true temperance which every Prince should use when he administreth Justice. The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolf, shews the cunning malice of a subtil foe, who before such as are of his contrary faction, will conceal the violence of his malice, that to he may gain a more quiet attention, and then mixing his calm words with bitter provises and doubtful injuries, doth the utmost he can to poison the reputation

Justice: For my own part, howsoever I have erred yet I have strong ground for my perswasion; or whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him, but by the true form of our Laws: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your Sobriety can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firapel the Libard to second her intreaty, said, My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can stray from her judgment: Therefore let him take the due Tryal of your Laws, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your Feast be ended to clear himself, or submit to your mercy, then may your Highness proceed against him, as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

To this speech Isegrim the Wolf replied, Sir Firapel, for my own part, I think not any of this assembly will dissent from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I have that lodged in my bosom, which shall approve he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, only touching the Treasure of which he hath informed his Majesty to lie at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a falser information from the mouth of any creature, for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself liberty to rob and spoil all that passed by his House, as now he doth: but notwithstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his Majesty, or you, Sir Firapel: Yet this believe, that if he had meant to have appeared, he had been here long since; for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me Allegiance or respect mine Honour, that forthwith they make themselves ready for the War: and at the end of six days appear before

of him he hateth. The Brocks going to the Fox, sheweth the office of a true Friend, which both giveth warning and advice to them they love. when they see them run into evil courses. The Foxes carlesnes shews the true nature of a desperate man; that when he hath plunged himself into the depth of evil, hath nothing but an audacious countenance and an impudent shew, to make himseem innocent; yet evermore his heart is nipt with the stinging of his conscience, as oft as he is alone, which is the torment of every offender.

fore me with their Bows, Gunns, Bumbards, Pikes and Halberds; some on Horse-back, some on foot, for I will besiege Malepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him turn his back, that I may know him for mine Enemy. And they all cried with one voice, We are ready to attend your Majesty.

When Grimbard the Brock heard this determination, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was desperate) and stealing from the rest of the Company, he ran with all speed possible to Malepardus, neither sparing Bush nor Brier, Dale or Fail; and as he went, he said to himself, Alas my dear Uncle Reynard! into what hazards art thou drawn, having but own step betwixt thee and thy death, or at the best, thine everlasting banishment! Well may I grieve for thee, since thou art the Top and Honour of my House, art Wise and Politick, and a Friend to thy Friends when they stand in need of thy counsel; for with thy sweet language thou canst inchant all creatures; but all is now bootless.

With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard unto Malepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons as they came creeping out of their Nest, to try how they could learn to flie. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he staid, and said, Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the only he I esteem above all my kindred: Surely you have run exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfully. What news man? how runs the squares at the Court? O, said Grimbard, exceeding ill with you; for you have forfeited both your life, honour and estate. The King is up in arms against you with Horse-men and Foot-men, and Souldiers innumerable: Besides, Isegrim and Bruin are now in more favour with his Majesty, than I am with you; therefore it is high-time you have great care of your self, for their envy hath toucht you to the quick, they have informed against you, that you are a Thief and a Murtherer: and to second their informations, Laprel the Coney, and Corbant the Rook have made hainous complaints against you, so that from shameful death, I see no escape or freedom. Tush

Tush (said the Fox) my dear Nephew, if this be the worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerful and pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court would swear my death, yet will I be exalted above them all;

all; Well may they prate and jangle: and tire themselves with their Counsels, but without the help of my Wit and Policy, neither can the Court or Common Wealth have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle, and Feast; I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are Young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other than blood; yet come, I say, my Wife Ermelin will receive you kindly, but by all means report not to her of any dangers, for she is of a soft and melting Temper, and it might strike her into suddain sickness; for Women are apt to entertain grief. When we have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attain speech with the King, I shall gall some deep enough; only this I desire (dear Nephew) of your hands, that you will stand to me, as one Friend and Kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life and goods shall be at your service. I thank you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingrateful. Sir (said the Brock) be bold of this, That you shall come and make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to Arrest or bold you, for that favour the Queen and the Libard have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) nor care I then a hair for their worst malice. And thus said, they went to Malepardus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Brock with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her Children with all courtesie. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: Then said the Fox, Nephew, how like you my Children Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will be honour to our Family, they are towardly, I assure you; for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Pullet? they are all good Workers, and can both deceive the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already adventure

adventure them far, only I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Gins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right hair, Nephew, and like me both in countenance and quality; they play grinning, intangle soothing, and kill smiling: This is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is a great pride unto me.

## CHAP. XVIII.

### How the Fox repenting his Sins, doth make his Confession, and is Absolved by the Brock.

UNCLE, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward Children: and rejoyce because they are of my blood. I thank you Nephew, (said the Fox) but I know your Journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented; so they laid them down upon straw Litter, and all slept soundly; but the Fox, whose heart was heavy with sorrow, lay studying how he might best excuse himself before the King. But as soon as the morning began to rise from the top of the Mountains, he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; yet before he went, he took leave of his Wife and Children; and said, Think not mine absence long (dear Wife and Children) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay be more than ordinary, yet take no affright thereat, and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best; and be careful of your selves, and keep my Castle close, and well guarded; as for my self, doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his Wife) what moves you to take this sudden Journey? the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped; and you vowed never to see it again. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrents of the World are divers and uncertain; and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity

that I go, and I hope my stay shall not be above five days at the uttermost; and so imbracing his Wife and Children, he took leave and departed; and as they journied over the Heath, Reynard said to the Brock, Nephew, since I was last shriven, I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may pass with less trouble through my worst dangers.

Then

Then he protested, and said, It is true, Nephew, that I made the Bear receive a great wound for the male which I did cut off his skin; and I caused the Wolf and his Wife to

be stript of their hoo's: I appeased the King only with falsehood, I fained a conspiracy against his Majesties life by the Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such deter-

*The Moral.* The Fox's shriving himself to the Brock, shews the Art of all dissemblers, which ever make devotion their cloak. By the buying of the Fole of the Mare, is shewed, that when proud men make instruments of wiser than themselves, and such as affect not their qualities, the service they do them is ever to bring them to mischief, &c. Also when ambition or covetuousness blinds men, and makes them trust on in their own skill and knowledge, that then they are ever suddenly overtaken with one mischief or another, and made a mock and scorn to their foes, and such as led them blindfold into the evil.

mination: also I reported of great Treasure to be hid in Husterloe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I slew Kayward, and betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Coney, and killed Dame Sharpbeak, the Rooks Wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shrift one great deceit which I committed, but I will reveal it and thus it was;

As I went talking with the Wolf between Houthlust, and Elverding, we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing with a black Fole by her side, which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in so much that he intreated me to go to the Mare, and know if she would sell her Fole: I went and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for Money: I then asked the price: and she said, the price was written in her hinder-foot, which if I pleased I might come and read it at my pleasure; but I that well understood her politick anger, said, It is truth that I cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Fole; only I am a Messenger from the Wolf, who hath a great desire to have it. Then (said the Mare) let him come himself, and I will give him satisfaction: Then went I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said; assuring him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the Fole, provided he could read, for the price was written in the Mares hinder-foot. Read (said the Wolf)! what should aile me? I can, Cousin, read both Latin, French, English, and Dutch; I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors; I have heard many stately Plays, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Laws; nor is there that writing which I cannot discipher: So desiring me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and craved that he might see and read the price of the Fole: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder-foot which was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-heads, as the Wolf look'd thereon, she smote him so just upon the fore-head, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead swound whil'st a man might have ridden a mile, and better; which done, away trotted the Mare with her

Colt,

Colt, and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, insomuch that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said, Sir Ilegrim, Dear Uncle, how do you? have you eaten too much of the Colt? indeed you are unkind, that will give me no part with you. I went on your message honestly? methinks you have out-slept your Dinner: good Uncle tell me what was written under the mares foot? was it in Prose or Rime? indeed I would fain know it: I think it was a Prick-song, for I heard you sing: nay you shew your Scholarship in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard, (alas said the Wolf) I pray you forbear to disdain me, for I am extreamly wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me. The damned Mare on her long legg hath an iron foot, and I took the Nails to have been Letters, on which I looked: she hit me so full on the head, I think my scull is cloven. Dear Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? believe it, you make me wonder; why, I took you for one of the greatest Clarks in this Kingdom: Well, I perceive the old Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Poor men sometimes may outstrip them in Judgement; and the reason is, you great Scholars, study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much over-labour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a hairs breadth to destruction. And now fair Nephew, I have unladed my Conscience, and delivered as many of my sins as I can call to remembrance; wherefore I beseech you let me receive Absolution and Penance: and then come what chance shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. Then Grimbard said, your trespasses are great and hainous; nevertheless, who is dead must abide dead. And therefore here I freely Absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty repentance: only the contempt you made in sending him Kaywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lye heavy upon you. Why (said the Fox) he that will live in the world to see this, or hear that, and

under-

understand the third, must ever converse with affliction. No man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingres. I often feel touches of repentance, but reason and our will are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still, as at my Wits end, and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them; but presently the World and her Vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to inchant me, that I am forthwith taken again; the World fills me with Covetousness, and the Flesh with Wantonness; so that losing my good resolutions, I am only for Hell and Wickedness. I hear their Singing, Piping, Laughing, Playing, and all kind of Mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: From them I learn my lying, and from Lords, Courts my flattery: For certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerks, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: And he that cannot dissemble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still grac'd it with Falshood? for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly, and without knowledge? yet having a handsom garment, it ever goes for currant. Dear Nephew, it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise, is held foolish: but he that cannot whimble falshood in truths kerchief, hath neither Art nor Cunning: but he that can do it, and deliver error without stammering, he may do Wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Laws Spiritual and Temporal, and write himself Conqueror in every designment. There be many that imagine they can do it neatly, but their cunning oft fails them: so that when they think to feed of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their Trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method mare all their discourses; but he that can give to his lye a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without ratling, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: That is the

man,

man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak the truth, is no cunning, it never makes the Devil laugh: to lye well and with a grace, to lift up wrong above right, to make Mountains and build Castles in the Air, to make them juggle and look through their Fingers, and all for hope of gain only: This Nephew, is an Art beyond expression; yet evermore at the end cometh misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may jest or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To play Placebo, may now and then be born with; for who so speaks always truth, shall find many rubs in his way: Men may err for need, and mend it by course, since no trespass but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime dulleth. Then (said the Brock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in any purpose; and I am grown inamoured of you; your reasons so far surpass my understanding, that there is no need of your shrift; for your self may both play the Priest and the Confessor: you know the world on such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on their journey towards the Court: Yet the Foxes heart (for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy; yet his countenance bewrai'd it not: but he past without amazement through all the preas of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Brock marched close by his side, saying Uncle be not afraid, but be of good cheer, it is courage of whom fortune is ever enamoured. Then (said the Fox) Nephew, you say true, and your counsel avails me: and so on he went, casting many disdainful countenances on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, here I am: what is that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not: as the Otter, the Bever, and divers others, which I will name hereafter: and many he saw that loved him. As soon as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XIX.

### How *Reynard* the Fox excuſed himſelf before the King, and of the Kings anſwer.

That Divine power from whom nothing can be hid, ſave my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and give them grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong: for

here

there are many falſe ſhews in the world, and the countenance bewrayeth not the heart: which I wiſh were openly revealed, and that every creatures treſpaſs ſtood written in his forehead, albeit it coſt me the uttermoſt of my ſubſtance, or that you (my Soveraign Lord) knew me as nearly as my ſelf, and how I diſpoſe my ſelf early and late, labouring in your ſervice; For which cauſe only malice makes all her complaints againſt me, ſtriving to thruſt me out of your grace and favour. Inſomuch, that out of my anguiſh I muſt needs cry ſhame unto them which have ſo deadly belied me. Nevertheleſs, I know that you my Lord, and Soveraign Lady, are ſo excellent in your Judgments, that you will not be carried away with falſhoods: and therefore I humbly beſeech your Majeſties to take into your Wiſdoms all things according to the right of your Laws: for it is Juſtice I look for, and deſire that he which is guilty, may feel the weight of his puniſhment. For believe it, dear Lord, it ſhall be known before I depart from your Court, who I am, that I cannot flatter, but will ſhew my face with an unblemiſhed forehead.

All they that were in the preſence, ſtood amazed, and wondred when the Fox ſpake ſo ſtoutly. But the King with a ſtately countenance, ſaid, Reynard, I know you are expert in fallacies; but words are now too weak to relieve you; I believe this day will be the laſt of your glory and diſgrace: for me, I will not chide you much, becauſe I intend you ſhall live but a ſhort time: the love you do bear to me, you have ſhewed to the Coney and the Rook, and your requital ſhall be a ſhort life on earth. The ancient ſaying is, A Pot may paſs long to the water, but in the end comes broken home. And your evils have ſo long ſucceeded, that they will now pay you the hazard. At theſe words Reynard was ſtricken into a great fear, and wiſhed himſelf far away, yet he bethought himſelf that now he muſt bear thorow, what fortune ſoever came: Whereupon he ſaid (My Soveraign Lord the King) it is but Juſtice that you hear me anſwer my accuſations; for were my faults more hainous than Envy can make them, yet Equity gives the accuſed leave

ever to answer. I have with my counsels done you service in former time, and may no less still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walked by your side, when others have gone from your presence: if then my enemies with their slanders shall prevail against me, blame me not to complain. Mine hath been, it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course; for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my kindred and friends, which now make no value of me, whom I can prove go about to deprive you of the best Servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine, if I had been guilty in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance, even in the throng of mine enemies? O it had been too much indiscretion; nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subjected. But Heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare affront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbard first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was half distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of the Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me. And I wandred with sorrow on the Heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin the Ape, who far exceeded any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Cambrick anytime this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said, Dear Cousin, why are you thus heavy in spirit? and why is your countenance dejected? grief is easie to carry, when the burden is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend, is to behold and relieve that which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, you say true, Dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune; for sorrow is without cause laid upon me; and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends; as namely, the Coney who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins, saying he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary, and therefore requested of me some meat: I willingly consented, took him in, and gave him a couple of Manchets, and sweet Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Besides it was

then

then a Fast, by reason the Feast of Whitsontide was neer. At which we must have cleansed and prepared hearts, Et vos estote Parati. Now when he had almost well refresht himself, my youngest Son Rossel came in, and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the Nature of Children is

ever eating and craving.) But presently the Coney smote Rossel on the mouth, that his teeth bled, and the poor fool fell down in a swound, which when as Reynardine (my eldest

*The Moral.* The boldness of the Foxes appearance & speech, shews the impudence of a desperate offender, that having nothing but his own boldness to bolster out his cause, still cries for Justice; and cares not so much to excuse himself, as to accuse others, & by digressions and extravagant speech to bring all those into disgrace which are able to testifie any thing against him. By the tale of the Apes going for him to *Rome*, and his threatning the King, is shewed, the ignorance and sottish blindness of the old times; which would thrall Kings under the Popes curse, and make them subject to his Commands, though they were never so Heathenish, &

Diabolical. By his exeuſing himſelf of the crimes againſt the Coney and the Rook, is ſhewed, that whoſoever is reſolved to do an ill act, will never make conſcience to tell a loud lye, nor is he ever unprovided thereof, becauſe they are the garment which he ever cloaths his knavery with. By the Apes friends in *Rome*, as *Simon* or *Si-*

Son) beheld, he forthwith leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and queſtionleſs had ſlain him, had I not come to the reſcue. Which done, I went and gave my Son correction for his fault. But preſently Laprel the Coney poſts to my Lord the King, and informs, that I (my ſelf) ſought means to murther him. Thus I am accuſed without cauſe, and brought in danger, that in truth have beſt cauſe to accuſe others. But not long after, came Corbant the Rook flying to my houſe with a ſad noiſe, and I demanding what he ailed? He anſwered, Alas, my Wife is dead. I craved the cauſe, he ſaid, A dead Hare lying on the Heath full of Worms and Vermin, of which ſhe had eaten ſo much, that the Worms had gnawed her throat inſunder; and without ſpeaking to me any more words, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now reports that I ſlew his Wife, which how could I poſſible by any means do, conſidering he flieth in the air, and I walk a foot on the ground? Thus

dear

dear Uncle you may see how I am slandred, but it may be it is for my old sins, and therefore I bear it with more patience. Then said the Ape to me, Nephew, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falshoods. Alas, Uncle (quoth I) it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsel to the Wolf to forsake his holy Orders, when he complained to me of his unableness to endure that strict life, and much fasting; of which Act I now much repent me, since he repayed my love with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all the slanders he can invent, stirring his Majesty daily against me. These things (dear Uncle) bring me to my Wits end; for of necessity I must go to Rome for Absolution; and in mine absence, what injury may happen to my Wife and Children through the malice of these bloody wretches, any one may guess: Whereas on the other part, were I but free of the Popes curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead my own cause, and turn their malice into their own bosoms.

Then said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorrow, for I know the way of Rome well, and am experienced in these businesses; for I am called the Bishops Clark, therefore I will go thither, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, and in spite of him will bring you from the Pope a well seal'd Absolution.

But man, I have many great friends there, as my Uncle Simon, and others, Pen-Stout, Wait-Scath, and the like, all which will stand unto me: besides, I will not go unfurnished of money, for I know Barators are best heard with gifts, and the Law hath no feet to walk on but money: A true friend is tryed in necessity, and you shall find me without dissembling; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presently to Rome, and in the mean time here I quit you of all your sins and offences, and only put them upon my self: when you come to the Court, you shall find there Dame Rakenaw my Wife, her two Sisters and my three Children, with divers others of our Family, I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine occasions: my Wife is exceeding Wise, and she

*mavi*, *Pen-Tout*, or *Take-all*, and *Wait-Scath*, or *Do-mischief*, is shewed the wickedness of these days in *Rome*, and how by much means a man might purchase any thing he went about. By his insinuating with the Apes wife, who was then a great favorite about the Queen, is shewed the art of a subtile head, that to gain himself a strong party, will not spare any false invention; for against those great ones, dare not the inferiour open their lips: By the flight of the Coney and the Rook, is shewed how soon the weak are terrified and daunted with the threatnings of the strong and mighty; that 'tis better to sit down with wrong, than to contend

with one that holdeth too strong a party: And also how by such advantage the offender takes heart, & thereon grounds the strength of his greater innocence. By the Lyons last accusations, & the Foxes directions, is shewed that when truth and authority stand up against the wicked, that then studying with his own conscience, he is able to abide no longer, but with silence and down-cast look, he shews plainly the grief which lies within him.

she shall find that her distressed friends shall not think when I can help them. I know she is faithful, and, as behoves her, will never leave her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be more than you can have, send presently to me to Rome, and not an enemy that you bear, be it King or Queen, or subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Interdiction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be performed till you have Right and Justice restored you.

This assure your self, I can easily perform, for his Holyness is very old, and little regarded; only now Cardinal Pare-Gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being young and rich in many friends: Besides he hath a Concubine, of whom he is so far enamoured, that he denies nothing she demandeth. His Lady is my Neece, and will do whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, go boldly to the King, and charge him to do you Justice, which I know he will, since he understands, the Laws are made for the use of all men.

This (my Soveraign Lord the King) when I heard him speak, I smil'd, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: Therefore if you, or any Creature within this Court, can charge me with any trespass whatsoever, and prove it by testimony, as the Law requireth, or else otherwise he will appose himself against me, person to person; grant me but a day, and equal lists, and in combate I will maintain my innocency against him, provided he be equal to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumb and amazed to behold his stoutness. As for the Coney and the Rock, they were so scared, they durst not speak, but privately stole away out of the Court, and being far on the Plain, they said, This devilish murtherer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can look with better counte-

countenance, which only our ſelves know, but have no other witneſs; therefore it is better we depart, than try combate with him, which is ſo much too ſtrong for us, and ſo away they went.

Iſegrim the Wolf, and Bruin the Bear, were very ſad when they ſaw theſe two forſake the Court: whereupon the King ſaid, If any will appeach the Fox, let him come forth, and he ſhall be heard: Yeſterday we were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Here is the Fox ready to anſwer.

Then ſaid the Fox, My Soveraign Lord, abſence makes impudent accuſers bold, when preſence daunts them, as your Highneſs may ſee both by the Coney and the Rook! O what it is to truſt the malice of theſe Cowards! and how ſoon they may confound good men! but for me, it matters not: nevertheleſs had they (at your Majeſties commandment) but ask'd me forgiveneſs, I had quickly caſt all their offences behind me, for I will never ſhake hands with charity;

rity; nor never hate or complain of mine enemies: my revenge I leave to heaven, and Justice to your Majesties. Then said the King, Reynard you speak well, if the inward heart be like the outward shew; yet I fear your grief is not so much as you express it: It far surmounts it, said the Fox: No, quoth the King: for I must charge you with one foul Treason, Which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to go a Pilgrimage to the Holy-Land: when I had furnished you with male, with staff, and all things fitting that holy Order, then in the greatest contempt you sent me back in the male by Bellin the Ram, the Head of Kayward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no Treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to deny, for Bellin (our Chaplain) at his death revealed the whole process; and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive, or else right shall fail me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a pitiful countenance upon all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went and came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foot to help him: Then the King said, Thou dissembling and false Traitor, why art thou now so dumb? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would have broke; so that every beast pitied him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, which rejoyced to see his sorrow.

## CHAP. XX.

### How Dame *Rukenaw* answered for the FOX to the King, and of the Parable she told him.

DAme Rukenaw the she-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard and a great favourite of the Queens) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding Wise, and durst boldly speak; and therefore rising up (after reverence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be pollest with

with anger, when you sit in Judgment, for it becometh not Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should only accompany you in that season: for mine own part, I think I know the Laws as well as some which wear Furred Gowns, for I read many, and put some in use. It is well known, I had ever in the Popes Palace a bed of straw, when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, and I was ever sufferred to speak freely without interruption; be-

*The Moral.* By the she Apes answering for the Fox is shewed how apt weak women are to be flattered into any belief in which they may either express their pity, or gain glory. Also it shews, the verifying of the old Proverb, *That a friend in Court, is ever worth a pound in a mans Purse.* By the violence of her defence, is shewed the true nature of a woman, that evermore runs into extreams; and so she may do the good or evil she intends, will not keep any thing concealed which may any way make for her purpose, nor yet any thing unurged, which may disgrace those that are of the contrary faction, as may appear by the tale

cause I talk not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that Princes are bound to do Justice to all men; nor may the Law waver or halt with any partiality. I do not think but if every man which standeth here, should call to an account all the actions of his life, he could not chuse but pity much the estate of my poor kinsman Reynard; and therefore I wish every one to know himself, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment. To do amiss and mend it by counsel, is humane and manly: but to trespass and still gallop forward in iniquity, is devillish and insufferable: the Holy Book saith, Be merciful and judge not, lest you be judged; and in another place, when the Pharisees brought a Woman taken in adultery, and would have stoned her to death, asked our Lord what he said thereto? he answered, Which of you all is without sin, let him cast the first stone: But they all departed and left her; In mine opinion, it is so here to day; for here be many that find straws in others eyes, but see not the beams in their own: he that falleth oft, and in the end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot be said to be damned: goodness never forsaketh her own servants. This counsel would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so dark as it doth to my Cousin Reynard. It is well known that his Grandfather and Father ever bare greater reputation in this Court, then either Bruin or Isegrim, or their whole generation. Alas, when have their Counsels, or Wisdoms been worthy to have held comparison with those of my Cousin Reynards? why, the passages of the World are to them Prophesies, which they understand not; and the Court is turned topsie-turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed; but how this can long endure, I see not; since the end of their labour, is but the ruin of your Majesty.

To this speech the King made this answer; Dame, had the Fox done that offence to you, as he hath done to others, your excuse would couch in another nature; you cannot blame me to hate him, since it is only he which breaketh my Laws and

Cove-

Covenants: you have heard him accused of Theft, Murther and Treason, how can you then defend him? if you will needs make him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar, and do him Worship; but believe it, there is no one good thing in him: and however you imagine, yet search him, and you shall find him rotten and deformed; there is neither kinsman nor friend (but your self) that will assist him, and therefore your violence draws my greater wonder. What companion hath he that ever thrived by his Society? or whom hath he smil'd on, that his tail hath not after dasht out the eye of?

of the Man and the Serpent, in which she sheweth the wisdom of the Fox, and the folly and disability of the Bear, the Wolf and the rest of the Fox's enemies.

To this the she-Ape replied, My Lord, I love him, and have ever born him a singular reverence; and I can well recount one noble and good action he did in your presence, for which you then thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the heaviest thing should ever weigh the most; and men should keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with violence; since constancy is the greatest ornament of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day till the evening come; nor is good counsel available, but to those which mean to pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to this Court a man and a Serpent to have Judgment in a doubtful controversie. For the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way to escape with life: a certain man passing by, the Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or he should perish presently. The man taking pity of him said, If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other Poyson about thee, I will release thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man unlooſed him, and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a long season.

At last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started aside, and said, what meanest thou to do? hast thou forgotten

thine Oath? the Serpent replied, No, but I may juſtly kill thee, ſince I am compelled thereto by hunger which cancelleth all obligations. Then the man ſaid, If it be ſo, yet give me leave to live till we may meet with the next paſſenger, which may judge the controverſie.

The Serpent agreed thereto; ſo they travelled till they met with Tiſellen the Raven, and Slinopere his ſon: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Ser-

pent

pent should eat the man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge the cause? It must not be one, but divers, and such as know both Law and Equity, that must judg this contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his Venom at the man; but the man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes, said the man, by such as are Murtherers themselves, and such as never kept promise; but I appeal to the Court, let me be tryed by your King, and what Judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolfs two Children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-Belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the man. So the full process of the matter was declared to your Majesty: but the mans kindness and covenant, the Serpents danger and Faith-breach, occasioned through the extremity of hunger. Remember how much your Highness was perplexed with their difference, and all your Councill also: For the mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raised much pity in your bosome. But in the end, such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judg it. At the last, when no help could be found, then you command my Kinsman Reynard to decide the business: then was he Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded? But he told your Majesty that it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations; but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to give Judgment therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then

Then went the Man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was ſnar'd, and Reynard commanded the Serpent to be faſtned as before in the ſnickle, which being done, then ſaid your Majeſty, Reynard, what Judgment will you now give? and he replied, They are now, my Lord, in the

ſame eſtate they were before at their firſt encounter? they have neither won nor loſt: Therefore this is my cenſure, if it be your Majeſties pleaſure, if the man will now looſe and unbind the Serpent, upon the ſame promiſe and Oath made formerly unto him, he may at his pleaſure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the Man freely go whether he will, and leave the Serpent bound and inthralled as he firſt found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be ſo repaid. This Judgment your Majeſty then applauded for the moſt excellent, and held the Wisdom of the Fox unimitable, terming him

him the preſerver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear, or Wolf the like? they can howl, or ſcold, ſteal, rob, and eat fat morſels, make their guts crack with others ruine; and condemn him to death which takes a Chicken; but themſelves which kill Kine, Oxen, and Horſes, O they go ſafe, and be accounted as wiſe as Solomon, Avicen, or Ariſtotle, and their Deeds and Statutes muſt be read for Monuments. But if they come where Virtue is to be exerciſed, they are the firſt which retreat, and let the ſimple go foremoſt whilſt they follow in the Rear with ſhame and cowardiſe. Theſe (my Lord, and the like) are the fools of theſe corrupt times, yet deſtroy Towns, Caſtles, Land and People: nor care they whoſe houſe burneth, ſo they may warm them by the fire: for it is their profit only at which their aim bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his family, have ever made the Honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counſel to do him ſervice, not pride and boaſting: This hath been and is his exerciſe, though it now be thankleſs. But time I hope will produce whoſe merit is greateſt: Your Majeſty ſays, his kindred is fallen from him, and ſtart at his fortune: would any but your Highneſs have affirmed it, you ſhould then have ſeen there could not be a thing of greater falſhood: But your Grace may ſay your pleaſure, nor will I in any word oppoſe you: for to him that ſo durſt do, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we deſcended of any baſe generation: Your Highneſs may call to mind the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly from time to time they have reſpected him, willing even to lay down their lives and goods for the ſafety of their noble Kinſman Reynard. For mine own part, I am one my ſelf; and albeit I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not ſtick to ſpend my deareſt blood: Beſides, I have three full grown Children, which are known, valiant and ſtrong in Arms, yet for his ſake I would adventure them all to the uttermoſt peril, albeit I love them with that dear affection that no Mother doth exceed me: my firſt born is called Bicelas, which is

moſt

moſt active and nimble; my ſecond Fulrump; the third is a daughter called Hartanet, a girl that can look a mans head, and pick out Lice more nimbly than all the Combs in Chriſtendom: and theſe three are loving and dear to one another: and with that ſhe called them forth unto her, and ſaid, Come my dear Children, and ſtand with your Kinſman the

Noble Reynard; and with you, come all the reſt of our ancient family, and be all Petitioners to the King, that he will do to Reynard the equity of his Laws and Kingdom. Then preſently came forth a world of other Beaſts, as the Squirril, and the Ferret: for theſe love Pullen as well as Reynard doth; Then came the Otter and Pertecrote his Wife, which I had almoſt forgotten, becauſe in former time they had taken part with the Bear againſt the Fox, but now they dare not, but obey Dame Rukenaw, for they ſtood in awe of her wiſdom and greatneſs: and with theſe came above twenty other

other Beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also Dame Atrot and her two sisters, the Weesel, and Harmel the Ass, the Brock, the Water-Cat, and many others, to the number of almost an hundred, and stood by Reynard, with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the he-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see my Kinsman hath friends that dare avow him; and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice; and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law pass, for we will not murmur to see his Destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rukenaw, Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Libard said, Sir, you must judge according to witness: for to be governed by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you inform me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kaywards death, and other informations, robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law, or Reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can justly acquit himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.

O how infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put new Blossoms on my dry'd Roses, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance on; and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembred for my renown and victory.

## CHAP. XXI.

How *Reynard* excuſed himſelf of *Kaywards* Death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour and made Relation of certain Jewels.

THen ſpake Reynard the Fox to the King, and ſaid, Alas my Soveraign Lord, what is that you ſaid? Is good Kayward the Hare dead? O where is then Bellin the Ram? or what did he bring to your Majeſty at his return; for it is certain, I delivered him three rich and ineſtimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they ſhould be detained from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my Soveraign Lady the Queen. But (ſaid the King) I received nothing but the Head of poor murthered Kayward, for which I executed the Ram, having confeſt the deed to be done by his advice and counſel. Is this truth (ſaid the Fox)? then wo is me that ever I was born; for there are loſt the goodlieſt Jewels that ever were in

in the poſſeſsion of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my Wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me. Then said the She-Ape, Dear Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory Wealth? let them go, only discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall find them again, if not, the Magician M. Alkarin shall labour his Books, and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever detains them, shall be curst in all Parishes, till he restore them to the Kings Majesty. O Aunt (said the Fox) do not perswade your self so; for whosoever hath them, will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words do something appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even Sanctity it self walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he gilded his dissimulation, he proceeded on, and said, Hearken all you of my Stock and Lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Majesty) was a Ring of fine and pure Gold, and within this Ring next the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing three Hebrew names; for my own part I could neither read nor spell them: But M. Abron of Trete, the excellent Linguist, who knoweth the nature of all manner of Herbs, Beasts, and Minerals, to this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which Seth brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his Father Adam the Oyl of Mercy. And whosoever shall wear these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder and Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: He shall not be tempted to do any sin, neither shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was encast a most precious Stone of three several colours; The first like red Chrystal, and glittering like fire, and that with such brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by Night,

*The Moral.*

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels and their ſeveral virtues and richet, is ſhewed the policy of the wicked, which are ever prepared of thoſe baits which they know will ſooneſt catch the minds of them they are to intangle: as wealth, health, honour, and virtue, all which are to be lodged in thoſe Jewels. As for the ſtories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himſelf, ſhewing in them ſeverally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemy, and ſuch examples are evermore bitter, and work more in the mind or the heart, than any violent ſpeech or invection

the light thereof was ſo great as that at Noon-day. Thzo- out their colour was white and clear, as if it had been burniſhed; and the vertue of it was to cure any blemiſh oz ſozeneſs in the eyes, oz any part of the body: Alſo (by ſtroaking the place grieved therewithal) it preſently cured all manner of ſwellings, head-aches, oz any ſickneſs whatſoever; whether it were

were venom, weakness of Stomach, Collick, Stone, Strangullion, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as afore shewed, or inwardly, by steeping the Stone in water; and then drinking the same. The last colour was green like grass, mixt with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could never be vanquisht by his enemies; and that no creature, were he never so strong and hardy, but would yield unto him, and he should be victor day and night in all places. Again, as far as one bore it fasting, into what company soever he chanced (were they his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely beloved, nor should any angry or ill turn be remembred: Also if one should be naked in a vast wide Field, against an hundred armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him, but he should come off with Honour and Victory: only he must be Nobly bred, and of no churlish disposition; for the Ring gave no virtue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all these virtues considered, I thought my self unworthy to keep it: and therfore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing you to be the most excellent of all creatures living; and one on whom all our lives depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a Jewel.

This Ring I found in my Fathers Treasure: and in the same place also I found a Comb, and a Glass Mirrour, which my Wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder and admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Queen, because of her grace and mercy extended towards me: to speak of the Comb, it can never be too much praised, for it was made of the bone of a Noble Beast named Panthera, which liveth between the greater India and earthly Paradise, he is so goodly and fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour under Heaven but some splendor therof appears in him: also the smell of him is so delicate, sweet and wholsome, that the very savour cureth all infirmities; and for his excellent beauty and rare odour, all other Beasts attend and follow him, for he is the Physician to all their sicknesses. This Panthera hath one fair

whatsoever. By the repeating of his & his fathers services, is shewed the subtile insinuation of offenders, which to extenuate present crimes, call to mind their good deeds past; not so much for the memory of the good example, as to beg a new reward, though it have been never so often paid for; for noble spirits have ever a tender feeling, and are soon toucht with the remembrance of any good turns received, for it is an obligation they seldom cancel.

fair bone broad and thin, which whensoever this Beast is slain, and the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish, either by water, fire, or other violence: yet it is so light,

a small feather may poise it: the smell of it hath that virtue, that whosoever scents it, taketh delight in no other smell whatsoever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases and infirmities; and the heart is cheerful and merry ever after.

His Comb is polished like unto fine Silver, and the teeth of it be small and straight; and between the great teeth and the small, in a large field or space, there is graven many an Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine Gold: the field is chequer'd with Sables and Silver, and enamell'd with Sybor and Azure! and therein is contained the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas, strove for the golden Ball in the Mountain Ida, and how it was put to Paris to give it to the fairest of them.

Paris

Paris at that time was a Shepard, and kept his Flocks with Onone, on that hill; and as soon as he had received the Ball, Juno promised if he would bestow it on her, she would make him the richest man in the World. Pallas said, That if she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the World, and the most fortunate against his enemies. But then Venus said, what needest thou wealth, wisdom, or valour? Art thou not Priamus son, and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the Heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the World, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing; she, whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climb above all in glory: that's is the wealth none can praise too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turns all things into joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady? and Venus said, It is Hellen of Grece, the Wife of King Menelaus; she that is Jem of the World, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which did behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the Marriage, the honour of the Triumphs, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glass-mirror, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glass that stood thereon, was of such virtue, that men might see and perceive therein whatsoever was done within a mile thereof, whether it was the actions of man, or beast, or any thing else the owner should desire to know; and whosoever but gazed therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the virtues of this rare Glass, that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the loss: for the wood in which this Glass stood, was light and fast, and is called Ozime, it will last ever: for worms, dust, wet, nor time can consume it, and therefore King Solomon seeled his Temple with the same: the value far exceeding

ſing that of gold it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King Crampart made a Horſe, for the love of the moſt beautiful daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horſe was made with ſuch Art within, that whoſoever rode on it, if he pleaſed, he would

would run above an hundred miles in less than an hour, which was approved by Clamades the Kings son; who not believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt upon the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pin that stood in the Brest of the Engine, moved and went out of the Palace through the Windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten miles. Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the story said) that he should never have returned back again: But of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the wooden Beast, I leave to speak for tediousnes sake; only the high vertue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glass-case was made, being larger than the Glass by half a foot and more, square; upon which verge was decyphered divers many strange Historyes in Gold, in Silver, Sables Yellow, Azure and Cynope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enamelled, that any man might read the whole story: believe it, the World never produced a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his natural glory, fat, fair, and fiery, which braved a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely disdained, he went to a herdsman standing by, and told him if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the horns, skin, and flesh: Then the Herdsman asked him what means he should use to get him: the Horse said, Mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The Herdsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer; but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, and with much labour the Horse, grew weary, and he bade the Herdsman light, for he would rest him a while. But the Herdsman said, I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heels, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus

the Horse brought himself into thraldom, and was taken in his own net: for no creature hath a greater adversary than his own envy; and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruins.

In another part was figured an Asse and a Hound, which were both the servants of a rich man. This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Asse saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? I see no profitable service he doth him; I labour, bear and draw, and do more service in one week, than the dog and his whole kind are able to do in a year, and yet have I not the tythe of his favours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and Pillows: when I that do all am fed only with Nettles and Thistles: well, I will no longer indure it, but I will study to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anon the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting up his tail, leapt with his fore feet on his mouth to kiss him, and used such rude unmannerly actions, that he rub'd all his skin from his Masters ears, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forc'd to cry out, Help, help, for this Asse will kill me. Then come in his servants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to his stall again, and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which do envy and spight at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more than is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse, and was born to eat Thistles: and where Asses govern, there order is never observed; for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the Story, how my Father and Tibert the Cat travelled together, and had sworn by their troth, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other; but it happened on a time, they saw Hun-

ters

ters coming over the fields with a Kennel of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then said the Fox, Tibert whither shall we flie; for the Hunters have espied us? for my own part, I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what need many words? I have but one wile, and that must help me; and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd amongst the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennel pursued him, Horns and Hallows ecchoing after him, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

This when Tibert saw, he mocked my Father, and said, How Cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles; for if your Wit fail you, I fear your whole body will perish. This my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of his pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himself so much lighter; yet all avail'd not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Huntsmen. Then you may see the false faith of the Cat, like whom there may be many living at this time; and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my souls health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grievous to me: not so much for hatred, as the remembrance of his injuries, which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Mirrour stands another History of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was fain to gnaw and devour the bones; which he did with such greediness, that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so cross his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escap'd with life: whereupon he sought every place for the cunningest Surgion, promising him great gifts to ease his torments: but having left much labour, in the end he met with the Crane,

and besought him with his long neck and bill to help him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolfs throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and cried out aloud, Thou hurt'st me, but I do forgive thee: yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not bear it: then the Crane said, Sir Isegrim, go and be frollick, you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Wolf) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, he will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit he put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I, which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ungrateful men in these days, how they ever rewarded good with evil: for where Pride is exalted, there Honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanced them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuries, but the guardon will follow: for it is the wisest counsel, That whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own clearness. All this, and a world more than I can well remember, was curiously wrought on this Glass: for the Work-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King and Queens Majesties as a Present, to witness my faith and service: O he that had seen what sorrow my Children made when I sent the Glass away, would have wondred; for by reason of the great virtue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparel became them.

Little did I then imagine that good Kayward was so neer his death: for, than but himself, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no messenger worthy to carry such a present. But I will search the whole world, but I will find the murtherer; for murther cannot be hid. It may be, he is in this pre-

sence

ſence which knows what is become of Kayward, albeit he do conceal it; for many Devils walk like Saints. Yet the greateſt Wonder of all is (which troubled me moſt) that my Lord the King ſhould ſay, that my Father, nor my ſelf, ever did good. But the troubles of affairs may well breed forgetfulneſs in Kings, otherwiſe your Majeſty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two years old, my Father came from the School at Mountpelier, where he had ſtudied five years the Art of Phyſick, and was expert in all the Principles thereof, and ſo famous in thoſe days, that he wore cloaths of Silk, and a Golden Girdle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of ſickneſs, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King moſt dearly) and the King rejoyced at his ſight, and would not ſuffer him to be out of his preſence. All others might walk whither they would, only he muſt ever be near him. Then ſaid your Father, Reynard, I am exceeding ſick, and I feel my ſickneſs increaſing. My father anſwered, My Lord here is a Urinal, make water therein, and as ſoon as I behold your ſtate, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was adviſed (for he truſted not any equal with him.) Then ſaid my Father, My beſt Lord, if you will be eaſed of your grief, you muſt needs eat the Liquor of a Wolf of ſeven years old, or elſe your diſeaſe is incurable.

The Wolf at that time ſtood by your Father, but ſaid nothing: whereupon the King ſaid, Sir Iſegrim, you hear how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liquor. The Wolf replied, Not ſo my Lord, for I am not yet full five years old. It is no matter (anſwered my Father) let him be opened, and when I ſee the Liquor, I will tell you if it be medicinable. Then was the Wolf carried to the Kitchin, and his Liquor taken out, which the King did eat, and was preſently cured of his ſickneſs. Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Maſter Reynard. So he abode ſtill about the King, walking by his ſide, and was truſted in all things, and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roſes, which he muſt ever

wear

wear upon his head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now only advanced; virtue is put back, and innocence lives in sorrow: for when baseness and covetousness are made commanders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the lowness from whence they are risen. They have no hearts for pity, nor ears for the poor mans cause. Gold is the Sole they run to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great man's Gate doth not look upon Covetousness? where is not flattery entertained? and what Prince takes hate at his own praises? But should greatness need their honest service, well might they starve ere they could gain that employment: for like Wolves, they had rather see their Masters die, than lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This, my Lord, was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I my self may say, I have done to you both Honour and service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I vow I do not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are ever worthy of more than I can render, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyal Subject, which I am ever bound by the Laws of God and Nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Isegrim the Wolf and I had gotten a Swine under us, and by reason of his extream loud crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying, That you and the Queen your Wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry and intreated us to give you part of our getting: Isegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him: but I spake out aloud, With all my heart my Lord, and were it better than it is, it were too mean for your service. But Isegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giving you and the Queen but one poor quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured, and left me for my share but poor half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none: so that you reacht him a blow with your foot, which tore all the skin from about his ears,

so

to that he ran away crying and howling with extremity. But your Majesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his ears dropping blood all the way as he went: in the end, we took a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laughed and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman, and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity; Then you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majesty; the other half to the Queen: As for the Nuggets, Liver, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the Head, I gave it to Hegrim the Wolf, and took unto my self but the Feet only. Then said your Majesty, Ah Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits here with his bloody pate; for he lost his skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousness hath reap'd nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Nay, if they had power, even your Majesty also; for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But woe to that Common-wealth where such have the upper-hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousness sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and censure: though now that Judgement is not so reputed, yet it may be the same reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the only thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise; and prove it by witness, here I stand to indure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice only slander me without witness, I crave the Combat according to the Law, and

instance

instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well: nor know I any thing more of Kaywards death, than the bringing of his head unto me by Bellin the Ram; therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easie: I remember, my heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain presage of the loss which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his loss, and pitied his sorrow. But the King and Queen were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a means they might be restored to them again.

---

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXII.

How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Isegrim* the Wolf complained of him again.

THe Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and though he little meant to perform what they intreated,

yet he thanked the King and Queen for the comforts they

gave him in his great extremity, vowing not to rest either night or day, but to seach all the corners of the Earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majesty, that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attain unto them, that then his Highness would assist him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punish these, and murther both, which were concerned in this action.

Then the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flattery, had so fastned the King unto him, that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him: only Isegrim the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer: he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majesty should be so childish or weak of belief, as to fix your trust on the falshood of this ever deceiving Merchant, which hath nothing but Shadows and Chymera's wherewith to inchant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all covered and besmeared with murther and treason, and even to your own face hath made a scoff of your Majesty. For my own part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a Peal of contrary nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord that this dissembling and false Traitor, not long since did betray my Wife most shamefully; for it happened on a Winters day, that they two travelled together through a very great water, and he perswaded my Wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tail, by letting it hang Anglewise in the water a good while: whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that half a

dozen

dozen of them should not be able to devour it. The silly fool my Wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before

she came to the water; and comming into the depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her tail down still in the water, expecting when the fish should cleave thereto: but the weather being sharp and frosty, she stood there so long, that her tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that

all the force she had, was not able to pull it out: but when this lustful villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her and ravisht her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that no modest ear is able to hear the odiousness of the action. My poor Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she shriek, cry, and feed upon the brine of her own tears, but all to no purpose; the deed was done, and the villain triumphed. This no Impudence can make him deny, for I came and took him in the action: O how much! jealousie, grief and fury assail'd me at that instant, I was even distracted to behold them: and cryed, Reynard, villain, what art thou doing? but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt from her, and ran his way: so I went unto her with much sorrow and heavinels, having a world of labour ere I could break the Ice about her; and in despight of all my cunning, yet she was compelled to leave a piece of her tail behind her: and indeed, we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason of the great anguish she indured, she barked so loud, the people of the next Village rose up, and came with Staves and Bills, with Flails and Pitch-forks, and the Wives with their Distaves; and so fiercely assaulted us, crying kill, kill, and slay, slay, that I never was in so desperate a taking. One slave amongst the rest, which was strong, and swift of foot, hurt us sore with a Pike-staff; and had not the night befriended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence we came into a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and Murtherer hath used us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I confess it would touch me near in Honour and Reputation: but God forbid that such a slander should be proved against me: I confess, I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how to enter the water, and never touch the mire: but her greedinels so transported her, when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without respect of any path or direction; and

so coming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen, reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites: but is commonly seen, that who all would have, all forse: for covetousness seldom bringeth any thing well home: when I saw her so fastned in the Ice, I used all my best endeavours to loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and boing about her, but to little purpose; for by reason of her weight I was not able to move her.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Isegrim, and seeing me so busie about her, Churl-like he most vilely slandered me, like a profuse Wittal, which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but believe it, my gracious Lord, all was false, and his Wife virtuous, for any thing within my knowledge; whence I am perswaded, that surely his eyes dazelled; for indeed, he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatned much revengement against me; so that more to eschew his blasphemy than fury, I went my way; and he came, and with as great ado, as much heave and shove he helpt her out; which done (than they almost starved with cold) ran and skipt up and down the fields to get them heat; and that this is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be deposed; for I would not be the father of any falshood before your Majesty, to be Master of many millions: however my fortunes go, I respect not, Truth is my badg, and hath ever been the Ensign of all my Ancestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt made of mine assertion, I ask but eight days liberty, that I may confer with my Learned Council, and I will approve all my words, by Oath and Testimony of good and sufficient witness, that your Majesty, and your Honourable Council shall accord to the justness of my protestation. As for the Wolf, what have I to do with him? It is well known already, that he is a debaucht and almost notorious villain; false both to Heaven and your Majesty; and now his own words witness him a base slanderer of Women: therefore I refer my self to the tryal of his Wife: if she accuse me, let the world hold me guilty; provided she may be made free from her husband, whose tyranny

*The Moral.* By the complaint of the Wolf is shewed, the end that one ill man bears another, and how loath they are that any of the contrary factions should scape punishment; & that to gain revengement, they care not what indignity they do to themselves, as doth appear by the Wolfs slandring of his own wife. By the rising of the Town up against the Wolf and his wife, is shewed that one mischief seldom cometh to all folks, but another stills follows it at the heels. By the Fox's excuse, is shewed how policy hath ever an evasion or a cloak for any evil it doth, and can colour every thing with a pretence of

Goodneſs. The Fox's contempt of the Wolf, ſhews, that ſtrength or policy conſiſts in diſgracing the adverſe part, & calling his good name in queſtion, by which means he may loſe his life and credit. By the ſhe-Wolf falling into the Well, ſhews the effect of covetouſneſs, which never

tyranny will compel her to ſay any thing, though never ſo unjuſtly.

At this, forth ſtept Dame Arſewind the Wolfs Wife, and ſaid, O Reynard, thou haſt ſo oyly a ſmooth tongue, and ſo dipt in flattery, that no man is ſafe from thine inchantment: it is not once but oft thou haſt deceived me; remember but how thou didſt uſe me at the Well with two Buckets which hanging at one cord, and running through one Pulley, which ever as one went down, the other went up, I remember how thou getting into one of them, fell'ſt down to the bottom of the Well, and there ſateſt in great danger and peril, ſo that I ran thither with great haſte, and heard thee ſigh and make great moan: then asking thee how thou cam'ſt there? thou anſwerd'ſt me that thou wert there a fiſhing; and hadſt ſo much fiſh, of which thou hadſt eaten ſo many, that thy belly was ready to break with ſwelling: then I asked how I might come to thee; and thou ſaid'ſt, Anon, leap into that Bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt

be

presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier than thy self) I fell presently to the bottom of the Well, and thou camest up to the top: at which, when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst, Aunt, this is not the fashion of the World: ever as one comes up, another must go down; and so said, you leapt out of the Bucket, and ran your way, leaving me there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and starved with cold; and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied, Aunt, though the strokes were painful unto you, yet I had rather you should have them than my self, for you are stronger, and better able to bear them; and at that time of necessity one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he perswades to, is the avoiding of his own peril: for nature teacheth us to love our own Welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of folly.

brings any thing home but loss and danger; and that policy cares not who pines, so he feel no pain, as appears by the Fox's tempting her into the Bucket. By their entring into the She-Apes Cave is shewed, the difference betwixt temperance & rashness, and how far good words will prevail before rude and churlish behaviour.

Then said Dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your Majesty, mark how this dissembler can blow with all winds, and paint his mischief with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betrai'd me to my Aunt the She-Ape, where ere I escaped, I was fain to leave one of my ears behind me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides, he is apt to catch advantage from the weakness of Language) I desire no better evidence against him. Then said the Fox, Willingly I will do it, and without flattery or falshood, and therefore I beseech your Majesty to lend me your Royal Patience.

Upon a certain time the Wolf here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me, that he was exceeding hungry, (yet never saw him fuller in my life) but he would ever dissemble: at which, presently I took pity of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away we went and travelled half a day together without finding

ing any thing; then began he to whine and cry, and sa
he was able to go no further. Then hard by the foot
an Hathorn tree, we espied a hole all covered over wi
Brambles, and hear a great rushing therein, but cou
not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wolf
go in, and look if any thing were there to profit us, (f
something I knew there was) then said he Cousin,
would not creep into the whole for a hundred pounds till
know certainly what is therein, for there may be danger
but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath ba
Art and Wit to save your self, I will stay here unde
this Tree till you return; but I beseech you make hast
and let me know what is therein, as soon as you per
ceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me
poor silly Beast, to go before into the hazard, and he wh
is great, strong and mighty, did abide without in peace
wherein I expect no little friendship, for I would not en
dure the like danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed,
entred into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and te
dious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in o
the other side of the hole, by which, I saw there lying
great she-Ape, with eyes glimmering and sparkling wit
fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and o
her hands, nailes sharp as an Eltin, or Bodkin. I ima
gined her at first a Marmazin, or Baboon, or else a Mer
cat, for a more dreadful Beast I never beheld in all my
life time, and by her side lay divers of her Children,
which like her self were cruel and stern of countenance:
when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide
with their mouthes upon me, so that I grew amazed,
and wish't my self far from their harbour. But resolving
with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as
well as I could, I looked more constantly upon her, and
methought she appeared bigger than Isegrim the Wolf, and
the least of her brats much larger than my self (for a
fouler company I never saw) they were all laid in foul
litter, rotten and dirty with their own piss, they were
all daubed and clogged with their own dung, which stunk
so

so filthily, that I was almost poysoned with the smell. For my own part, I durst not but speak them fair, and therefore I said, Aunt, God give you many good days, and bless you and my Cousins, your pretty Children: questionless they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld; and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely Issue. Truly Aunt, we are infinitely beholding to you that doth add this increase and glory to your family. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delivered, I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you. Then replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thank you for your kind visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation; you do much honour to our kindred, and are famous for the means you work to their preferment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the World. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with the good and virtuous.

O how glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her! which kindness was only because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no foul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is only Dame Rukenaw, which standeth yonder: who indeed is mother of excellent Children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this foul Monster: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your Commandment, and your Childrens. Yet I most heartily wisht my self far from them at that instant, for I was almost poysoned with their stink. And I pitied Isegrim, who was sore grieved with hunger all this while: and offering to take my leave, feigning that my wife would think it long till my return, She said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it unkindly

kindly if you offer it: then rose she up: and carried me into an inner Room, where was great store of all kind of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow-Deer, and Roes, and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side, and half a haunch of an Hinde to carry home to my Wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me: and so taking my leave; and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart from thence, much joyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causey, I spied whereas Isegrim lay groaning pitifully; and I asked him how he fared? He said wondrous ill, and so extreamly ill, that (dear Nephew) without some meat, I die presently: then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wifes token, which preserved his life; and for which then he gave me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extreamly. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my Dear Cousin, what found you in the hole? believe it I am now more hungry than I was before, and this small morsel hath but sharpned my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into the hole, and you shall find store of Victuals; for there lieth my Aunt with her Children: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit; but rude and barbarous Beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel: so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Wo and alas, I think I am come into hell: did ever creature see such fearful goblings? drown them for shame drown them, they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil; why, they make my hair stand an end with their horrid deformity. Then (said he)

Sir

Sir Isegrim, their Creation is not my fault let it suffice they are my Children, and I am their Mother. Nor ought their beauty or hard favour to displease you: here was a kinsman of theirs too day, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely; for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. Then he replied, Dame, I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed on me, than on those ugly Urchins. But she told him, she had no meat: Yea (said he) here is meat enough; and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt started up with her Children, and ran at him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears, and I heard him cry and howl so extreamly, that it appeared he had no defence but to run out of the hole as fast as he could. For indeed, he came out both extreamly beaten, and extreamly bitten, and all his skin flaght like a Spanish Jerkin: and one ear left behind, as a pawn of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently; and he said, he had spoken as he found; for the Dame was a foul Bitch, and the Litter most ugly Monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beauties, and took them for the best of his alliance. And he replied, he had rather have seen them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must always receive such reward as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise; a lie sometimes as much availeth, as a true tale: and fair words never come out of season; and better than we, hold it for a rule worthy of Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red Night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to deny, for all is true, without any addition.

## CHAP. XXIII.

How *Iſegrim* profferr'd his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted: and how *Rukenaw* adviſed the Fox to carry himſelf in the Fight.

THE Wolf anſwered the Fox, I may well forbear (falſe Villain, as thou art) thy mocks and ſcorns, but thine injuries I will not. You ſay, I was almoſt dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my need: but thou lieſt falſely therein, for it was nothing but a bare bone thou gaveſt me, when thou hadſt gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know, in this thou injureſt my reputation; again, thou accuſeſt me of Treaſon againſt the King, and to conſpire his Majeſties death, for certain Treaſure thou ſayeſt is in Huſterloe: alſo thou haſt abuſed and ſlandered my Wife, which will ever be an infamy to her name, if it be not revenged: theſe things conſidered, I have ſworn you long, therefore now look not to eſcape, wherefore ſeeing there is no other teſtimony but our own Conſciences: before you my Lord the King, and the reſt of my Noble Lords, friends and alliances, here I will affirm and approve to the laſt drop of my Blood, that thou Reynard the Fox, art a falſe Traitor and a Murtherer, and this I will approve and make good upon thy body within the Liſts of the field, body againſt body, by which means our ſtrife ſhall have an end; and in witneſs whereof, I caſt thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for my injuries, or elſe dye like a Recreant.

Reynard was ſomething perplexed when he ſaw this, for he knew himſelf much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worſt: but ſtraight remembring the advantage he had, by reaſon the Wolfs fore-claws were pulled way, and that they were not yet fully cured, Whatſoever he be that ſaith I am a Traitor or a Murtherer, I ſay, he lieth in his Throat, eſpecially Iſegrim above all others: poor fool, thou bringeſt me to the place I deſire, and to the purpoſe I wiſh for, in ſign whereof I take up the gage,

and

and throw down mine, to prove all thy words lyes and falshoods.

This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted the Battle, commanding them to put in their surety, that the next morrow they should try the Combat: then stept forth the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolf: and for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Brock, and Betelas. When all Ceremonies were finished, the shee-Ape took Reynard aside, and said, Nephew, I beseech you take

*The Moral.* By the Wolfs challenging the combat of the Fox, is ſhewed the madneſs of rage and fury, and how negligent it is in reſpecting its own hazard, ſo it may do miſchief to the adverſary. The Fox's accepting of it, ſhews how when policy hath no other ſhifting hole, that then it grows deſperate, and will out face any

take care of your ſelf in this Battle, be bold and wiſe, your Uncle taught me once a Prayer of ſingular vertue for him which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholar and Clark, the Abbot of Budelo. and he that ſaith this Prayer with a good devotion faſting, ſhall never be overcome in Combat: and therefore my beſt Nephew be not affraid, for to morrow I will read it over to you, and the Wolf ſhall never prevail againſt you. The Fox gave her many thanks for her favours, and told her his quarrel was good and honeſt, and therefore he had no doubt of his happy ſucceſs: ſo all that night he tarried with his kinsfolks about him, who drave away the time with pleaſant diſcourſe. But Dame Rukenaw his Aunt ſtill beat her brain how to work him advantage in the Combat; wherefore ſhe cauſed all his hair to be ſhaved off even from his head to the tail, and then ſhe anointed all his body quite over with oyl Olive, ſo that ſhe made it ſo ſmooth and ſlippery, that the Wolf could catch no hold of him: beſides he was round, fat, and plump of body, which much

availed

availed to his advantage: then she advised him that night to drink exceeding much, that he might be more apt to pis in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he came into the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see time sitting, pis upon your bush tail, and strike it in the Wolfs face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: but at these special times keep your tail as close as can be between your legs, lest he catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your self at the first, and by all means shun his blows, making him to toyl and run after you, especially there where most dust is, and spoing it up with your feet, make it flie in his eyes, take your advantege, and smite and bite him where you may do him most mischief, ever and anon striking him on the face with your tail full of pis, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and weary him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt, by the loss of his shoo's, which you caused to be pulled off, he will not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak. This (Nephew) is mine advice, and assure your self in these cases, Art prevaileth as much as courage; therefore regard your self well, that not only your self, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charm of Prayer which your Uncle Martin taught me, by which you may be invincible, it is this which followeth. Then laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue, Gorsens, Arsbuntro. Now Nephew, assure your self you are free from all mischief or danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest, for it is near day, and some sleep will make the Body better disposed.

thing, to the uttermost danger.

By the She-Apes counsel, is shewed, the care of a true friend, which is then ever most busie, when he sees his companion in danger, and leaves no way unsought that may free him from trouble.

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable; and so he laid him down to rest under a Tree in the grass, till it was Sun-rise: at what time the Otter

came

came unto him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat, ſaying, Dear Couſin I have toiled all this night to get this preſent for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it ſhall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and ſaid, it was fortunate hanſel, and if he ſurvived that day, he

ſhould

ſhould find he would require it: ſo the Fox eat the Duck without bread or ſawce, more than his hunger, and to it he drank four great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed, where the liſts ſtood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus ſhorn and oyled, he ſaid to him: Well Fox, I ſee you are careful of your own

safety: you respect not booty, so you escape danger. The Fox answered not a word, but bowing himself down humbly to the Earth, both before the King and the Queens Majesties, went forth into the Field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood bearing, and giving out many proud and vain glorious speeches. The Marshals and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libbard, and the Lose. These brought forth a Book, on which the Wolf swore, and maintained his assertion, That the Fox was a Traytor, and a murtherer, which he would prove on his body, or else be counted a Recreant. Then Reynard took the Book, and swore, he lied as a false Traytor and a Thief, which he would prove on his body, or be accounted a Recreant.

When these Ceremonies were done, the Marshals of the Field had them to their devoir. And then every creature avoided the Lists, save Dame Rukenaw, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him, and call to mind, how when he was scarce seven years old, he had then wisdom enough to pick the darkest night without Lanthorn or Candlelight, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion requited him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: and therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an eternal Monument to him and his family for ever. To this the Fox answered (my best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your Counsel; I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said, Amen; and so departed.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XIV.

### Of the Combat betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the Event, Paſſages, and Victory.

WHen none but the Combatants were in the Liſts, the Wolf went toward the Fox with infinite rage and fury, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolf purſued him; ſo that there began a tedious chaſe betwixt them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolf taking larger ſtrides than the Fox, often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to ſtrike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and ſmote him on the face with his tail, which was all ſo be-pift, that the Wolf was ſtricken almoſt blind, the piſs ſmarted ſo extreamly. And he was forced to reſt while he cleared his eyes: which advantage when Reynard ſaw, he ſcratched up the duſt with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolf.

this grieved him worse than the former; so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes, smarted so sore, that of force he must rub and wash it away; which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he had, he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said, have I bit you Mr. Wolf? I will yet bit you better: you have killed many a Lamb, and many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall find the price of your Knavery, I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee thy absolution bravely. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercy: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and ask me forgiveness, and confess thy self banquished, though thou beest the worst thing living, yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Ingrim both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to express his fury: his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his fury he lift up his foot, and struck the Fox so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encounted the Wolf, that between them begun a dreadful and doubtful Combat. The Wolf was exceeding furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oily, he could not hold him. Nay, so wonderous nimble was he in the fight, that when the Wolf thought to have him surest, he would shift himself between his legs, and under his belly, and every time gave the Wolf a bite with his teeth, or a swap on the face with his tail, that the poor Wolf found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and biteings passed on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one fury, the other temperance. In the end, the Wolf being inraged that the battle had continued so long (for had his feet been sound, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this Combat; for I know my very weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I lose

e much of my reputation to ſuffer him thus long to
tend againſt me And this ſaid, he ſtruck the Fox

again ſo ſore a blow on the head with his foot, that he fell
down to the ground, and ere he could recover himſelf, and
ariſe

*The Moral.* By the Wolfs furious assailing the Fox, and the Fox his watching and pursuing of advantages, is shewed the folly of rage and passion, and the discretion of temperance and wisdom: the first never bringing any thing but loss, the other commonly accompanied with honour and safety. By the pist-tail, is exprest the sharp afflictions with which wisdom ever punishes rashness; and by the loss of the Wolfs eye, is shewed, that madness and rage is evermore but blindness.

The Wolfs catching the Fox and holding him in his power, shews that fortune sometimes favours fools, but never gives them grace to enjoy

arise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under hi lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have prest to death.

Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all friends began to shout for joy: but the Fox defended hi self (as well as he could) with his claws, lying along; the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws, his feet so sore; only with his teeth he snatched at him to him; which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on head with his fore-claws, so that he tore the skin betw his brows, and his ears, and one of his eyes hung out of head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he ho ed out extreamly; then Isegrim wiping his face, the Fox advantage thereof, and with his strugling got upon his fe

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after hi caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never Reynard in so great a strait as then, for that time gr was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf get his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under hi as Reynard was defending himself, his hand light into grim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yeild thy self as quished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy thy piss, thy mocks, nor any subtil invention shall save thee; thou art now left utterly desperate, and wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox he this, he thought it was a hard Election; for both brou his ruin; and suddenly concluding, he said, Dear Un since fortune commands me, I yield to be your Serv at your Commandment I will travel for you to the Ho Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service wh shall be beneficial to your soul, or the soul of your Fo fathers: I will do for the King or for our Holy-father Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and Revenues; as I, so shall the rest of my kindred; so that you shall Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move agai you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Pullins, Geese, P tridges, or Plover, flesh or fish, you, your wife and dren, shall have the first choice ere any come in my belly;

ther stand by your side, and wherefoever you go, no
er shall come near you: you are strong, and I am sub-
we two joyned together, what force can prevail against
? Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids
e would be any enmity between us: I would not have
ght against you, had I been sure of victory, but that you
appealed, and then you know of necessity I must do
uttermost; I have also in this battle been courteous
you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a
anger; for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare
Uncle: and this you may well perceive by my run-
from you. I tell you, it was an action much contrary
my nature; for I might have often hurt you when I
ed, nor are you wozzle for me by any thing more than
blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry, and wish it
not happened: yet thereby know, that you shall reap
er benefit than loss thereby, for when other Beasts in
r sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As
my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at
feet, before you in my presence: therefore I humbly de-
you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live. I know you
ill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never
in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred? There-
temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas
iness is ever the Mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know
to be valiant, wise, and discreet, and you rather seek ho-
, peace, and good fame, than blood and revenge.

Pellegrim the Wolf said, Infinite dissembler, how fain wouldst
ou be freed of my servitude? Tw well I understand thee,
know that if thou wert safe on thy feet, thou wouldst for-
ar this submission: but know, all the wealth in the
ld shall not buy out thy ransom; for thee and thy friends
esteem them not, nor believe any thing thou hast uttered:
well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush,
ft cannot deceive me: O how wouldst thou triumph, if
ould believe thee, and say, I wanted wit to understand
e; but thou shalt know, I can look both on this side,
d beyond thee; thy many deceits used upon me, have now
med me against thee. Thou saist, thou hast spared me in
the

the benefits. The Fox his flattering of the Wolf, shews, That whensoever wisdom is oppressed, it hath yet still one temperate means or other to gain his own liberty; and that fair words do ever either vanquish, or astonish. Lastly, by the weak Foxes conquering the strong Wolf, is shewed, that in all these accidents of change, neither force, rage, nor violence, do prevail so much as wisdom, discretion, and temperate, and wary carriage.

the battle: but look upon me, and my wounds will shew y falsly thou liest, thou never gav'st me a time to breathe in will I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rat when I think of the dishonour thou didst to my bed, and inhumanly thou did'st ravish my dear wife Dame Arlewi

Now, whilst Isegrim was thus talking, the Fox bethou himself how he might best get free; and thrusting his o hand down between his legs, he caught the Wolf fast by stones, and he wrung him so extreamly and hard there that he made him shriek and howl out with the anguish: t the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth; for t Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much to contain himself from swounding: for his torment exce ed far the pain of his eye, and in the end he fell over and in a swound: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and b him about the Lists, and drag'd him by the Legs, and struc wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the whol field might take notice thereof.

At this all Isegrim's friends were full of sorrow, and b great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and pray him to be pleased to appease the Combat, and take it in his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then t Lybard and the Losse (being Marshals) entered the Lists and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would spea with them, and that the battle should there end, for h would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: a for themselves, they had done sufficiently, neither would t King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, t whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what pleas my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey; for m ambition is no further than to be victor: Therefore I b seech you let my friends come to attend me, that I m proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reaso so presently came forth Dame Slopard, and Grimbard her h band, Dame Rukenaw with her two Sisters, Bitelas and Fo rump her two Sons, and Malice her Daughter, the Fiel Mouse, the Weasel, and above an hundred which would ha have come if the Fox had lost the conquest: for to him th ha

hath honour, will ever flock attendants; but to him that is in loſs, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, to the Fox came the Bever, the Otter, and both their wives Pauntecrote, and Ordigale, and the Oſtrole, the Martin, and the Fitchews, the Ferrit, the Squirril, and a world more than I can name, and all becauſe he was the victor: nay, divers which before had complained of him, were now of neareſt kindred; and ready to do him all ſervice. This is the faſhion of the world, he that is rich and in favour, can never be poor or hungry for friendſhip, every one will ſeem to love him, every one will imitate his faſhoods.

Then was a ſolemn feaſt held, Trumpets were ſounded, Cornets winding Shawms, and all inſtruments warbled, and every one cried, Praiſed be Heaven for this glorious conqueſt. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladneſs: Then asked their opinions, whether he ſhould yield the victory to the King or

no: and Dame Slopard said, yea by all means Cousin, for it stands with your Honour, nor may you deny it. And the Marshals going before, they went all to the King, guarding the Fox on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrils sounding before him.

When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King made him stand up, and said to him, Reynard,

pard, you may well reoice, for you have won much honour this day; therefore here I discharge you, and set you free, to go whither your own will leads you; for all contestations I take upon my self, and will have it discust by the wisest of the Kingdom, as soon as Isegrim's wounds shall be cured, at what time I will send for you, and so proceed to Judgment.

My worthy dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well apaid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highnes's Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my Life (whom I never injured) but they thought to overcome me, by joyning with your enemies against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater favour than I with your Majesty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a Dunghil, where they waited for such as should bring them meat; anon they saw a Hound come out of the Kitchen, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursuing him, threw hot scalding water after him, an scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding, away he went with his booty; but when his fellows perceived him, they called to him, and said, O how much art thou bound to the good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, you speak according to your knowledge; and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please to look upon me behind on my Buttocks, you shall find how dearly I paid for it; and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the hair and skin flayed from his hinder loins, they began to be agast and amazed at his torment; neither would they have any more of his Fellowship, but fled and ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, posses their desires and are mighty and renowned, then do they extort, pill

and poll the poor and needy, and eat them up like ſo many hunger ſtarved Hounds; for they are the Dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them, but praiſe all their actions; no man dare to offend them; nay, many aſſiſt and help them in their unlawful actions, only that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

O (my deer Lord) how can thoſe men go ſafely, which go thus blind-fold? Or how can they expect but a ſhameful fall, whoſe ſteps are ſo uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are diſcloſed, but continual curſes and upbraidings follow them to the grave with deſtruction: many of theſe have loſt their hair (which is their friends) as the Hounds did, and have none left to cover their miſchiefs, but all forſake them as the Hounds did the Dog which was ſcalded.

My Gracious Lord, I beſeech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatneſs of your virtue, for doubtleſs many of theſe evil extorting creatures are under your ſubjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lords houſes, who out-face the poor, and ſell away their freedoms and priviledges, and threaten things upon them which they never knew, thought or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of ſuch are vile, and Heaven hath for them a Judgement: but of theſe errors I hope none ſhall juſtly accuſe me, nor any of my kindred, but we ſhall acquit our ſelves nobly from the ſame. I fear no creatures accuſations; for I will ever be the For, though all my foes ſwear to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wiſdom divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the laſt gaſp: and though Malice have told your Highneſs to the contrary, yet I have ever diſproved them, and ſo will do to the laſt moment.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XXV.

### How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greateſt in his Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred.

THE King ſaid, Reynard, you are one that owe me homage and fealty, and I hope I ſhall ever enjoy it; And

for your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my Privy Council. Take heed you do not any thing unworthily: for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot miss you: for you are a Star, whose luster exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the moral your tale told me, and be a lover of truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that Creature in my Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of High Baylif here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King; but he told them it was much best of that he intended to do for their sakes; and willed them all to admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. Then said Dame Rukenaw, Believe it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear you the contrary; for should he prove otherwise, we would renounce him: Then the Fox also thanked the King with fair and courteous words, saying: My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these high honours you do me, yet will ever study with my service how to deserve them: nor shall my best Counsel at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages happed, Bruin the Bear, Tibert the Cat, and Arswind and her Children, with the rest of their Lineage, drew the Wolf out of the Field, and laid him upon soft Litter, and Hay, and covered him all over very warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgions. His sickness and weakness was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him

on

on the temples, and under the eyes, till he leapt out of his swound, and howled so loud, that all were amazed which heard him: but the Physicians gave him Cordials to drink, and a Mixture or potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife, telling her there was no danger

*The Moral.*

By these honours done to the Fox by the Lyon, is shewed, that seldom one good fortune cometh without another; and he that hath once atchieved fame and renown, to him will the World lye, and dignity on dignity shall be heaped upon him: as on the contrary part, he that is once fallen either in state or reputation, it is a thing of much difficulty to see him advanced without miracle; for worldly men are said to be like Dogs, which when one of their own kind is down, all the rest will fall upon him and worry him. But wise men or good men (for both are scarce) are said to be like Hogs; which when one of

their kind is down, all the reſt will preſently aſſiſt and help him.

danger or peril of his life. So the Court brake up, and every Beaſt return'd to his own home.

Amongſt the reſt, Reynard the Fox took his leave of the King and Queen, they deſired him not to be long abſent

For any thing elſe contained in this Chapter, it is either Moraliſed by the ſpeeches of the Fox, or elſe by the Author.

from

from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And then begging licence of his Majesty in all solemn manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.

Was there any Creature flattered braver, or to better purpose? for he that could do the like, might be a Master of the Eight liberal Sciences: And no Lord whether Spiritual or Temporal, but would have an ear open for all his Language. Nor died he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed, he that hath no alliance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the World goeth: Though he want his hair, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is now an Exile: and Covetousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements; the Pope's Palace, the Courts of Emperors, Kings and Princes, cannot be exempted from this error.

Money is now grown the only Favourite of the time; the very Church-Idol, and the Country-Worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things. And Mad-men Travel over the World, to gain this folly, this fashion. Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the Worlds custom; and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judg or imagine: Only that these hainous sins of falshood, Theft, Murther, and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment. From which I heartily pray that the Hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to virtue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit Theames for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own burthen.

---

WIth Reynard, all his friends and Kinsfolk, to the number of forty, took their leaves also of the King: and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad crea-

ture that he had ſped well and ſtood ſo fair in the Kings favour, for now he had power enough to advance whom he pleaſed and pull down any that envied his fortune.

After ſome travel the Fox and all his friends came to his

Borough or Caſtle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble and courteous manner) took leave of the other, and Reynard

did

did to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for the love and honour he had received of them; protesting ever more to remain their faithful servant, and to serve them in all things wherein his life or goods might be serviceable unto them: and took hands and departed.

The Fox went into Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: and to her and her children he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court: and miss no little or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his days from thencefortb (with his Wife and Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or less than you have heard, I would not wish you to build any Faith upon his reports: Only this which you have already heard or read, you may believe at your best pleasure: Notwithstanding if any refuse, he shall not be accounted an Heretick, since he that only saw it, may best give credit unto it, and yet many in this World believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Moral, which figure out things that never were, only to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Virtue. In like manner, this Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if ye look seriously thereinto, ye may haply find much Moral matter and wisdom, worthy your consideration. Goodness, nor any Good man shall ye find in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as his conscience shall so instruct him: if any man find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment. If any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoid stumbling: And if any take distast or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is only his Language. But if all things suit to my wished imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the World with a second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Morals.

EB

E·B

# A Table of the Contents of all the Chapters.


How the Lyon proclaimed a Solemn Feaſt at his Court, And how *Iſegrim* the Wolf, and his Wife, and *Curtiſe* the Hound made the firſt complaint of *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 1.

How *Grimbard* the Brock ſpake for *Reynard* to the King. Chap. 2.

How *Chantecleer* the Cock complained of *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 3.

The Kings anſwer to the Cocks complaint, and how tney ſung the Dirge. Chap. 4.

How *Bruin* the Bear ſped with *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 5.

How the King ſent *Tibert* the Cat for *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 6.

How *Tybert* the Cat was deceived by *Reynard* the Fox. Chap. 7.

How *Grimbard* the Brock was ſent to bring the Fox to the Court. Chap. 8.

How *Reynard* ſhrove him to *Grimbard* the Brock. Chap. 9.

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excuſed himſelf. Chap. 10.

How the Fox was arreſted, and judged to death. Chap. 11.

How the Fox made his Confeſſion before the King. Chap. 12.

How *Reynard* the Fox was honoured of all Beaſts by the Kings Commandment. Chap. 13.

How *Iſegrim* and his wife *Arſewind* had their ſhoo's pluckt off for *Reynard* to wear to *Rome*. Chap. 14.

How *Kayward* the Hare was ſlain by *Reynard* the Fox, and his head ſent by the Ram to the King. Chap. 15.

How *Bellin* the Ram and his lineage were given to the Bear and the Wolf. Chap. 16.

How the King was angry at theſe complaints, took counſel for revenge, and how *Reynard* was forewarned of *Grimbard* the Brock. Chap. 17.

How the Fox repenting his ſins, doth make confeſſion, and is abſolved by the Brock. Chap. 18.

How *Reynard* the Fox excuſed himſelf before the King, and the Kings Anſwer. Chap. 19.

How dame *Rukenaw* anſwered for the Fox to the King, and of the parable ſhe told. Chap. 20.

How *Reynard* excuſed himſelf of *Kaywards* death, and all other imputations; got the Kings favour, and made a relation of certain Jewels. Chap. 21.

How *Reynard* made his peace with the King, and how *Iſegrim* the Wolf complained of him again. Chap. 22.

How *Iſegrim* proffered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted; and how *Rukenaw* adviſed the Fox to carry himſelf in the fight. Chap. 23.

Of the combat between the Fox and the Wolf; the events, paſſages, and victory. Chap. 24.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greateſt in the Land; and of his Noble return home with all his kindred. Chap. 25.

FINIS.

# *Books printed for, and sold by* Edward Brewster *at the* Crane *in* St. Pauls Church-yard 1694.

A *Prospect of Divine Providence*, by *T. C. A. M. Octavo.*

*Cases of Conscience practically resolved*, by the Reverend and Learned *John Newman*, late Minister of *Bridgewater* in *Somersetshire*. Octavo.

*The Sinner condemned of himself*, being a Plea for God against all the ungodly; proving them alone guilty of their own Destruction. Octavo.

*Scriptures self Evidence*: proving it only to be the Rule. Both by *T. Ford*, late Minister of *Exon.* 12°.

Mr. *John Ball*, *his large and small Catechism.* Octavo.

*A most familiar Exposition of the Assemblies shorter Catechism*, by *Joseph Allen*, late Minister in *Taunton* in *Somersetshire*. Octavo.

*Christian Advice* both to young and old, rich and poor; which may serve as a directory at hand, ready to direct all Persons almost in every Estate and Condition; under 17 General heads, by *Tho. Mocket*, 12°.

The *Gospel New Creature*; wherein the work of the Spirit in awaking the Soul to get pardon of sin, and an intereſt in Jesus Christ, is plainly opened, by *Anthony Palmer.* Octavo.

*The Poesy of Godly prayers, fit for every Christian to use*; *in* 12°.

Dr. *Homes Essay concerning the Sabbath.* Octavo.

*Exercitations and Meditations* Moral and Divine, by *Samuel Thompson*, M. A. *Octavo.*

Mr.

Mr. *Joseph Allen*, Exepoſition on the Aſſemblies Catechiſm.

The *Righteous mans Evidence for Heaven*, by *Timothy Rogers*, 12°.

*Moſes revived:* A Treatiſe proving, that it is not lawful, and therefore ſinful, for any Man or Woman to eat blood, *viz.* the life-blood of any Creature; by *John Moore*, Octavo.

*Baſilius Valentinus*, his laſt Will and Teſtament, which was found hid under a Table of Marble behind the high Altar in the Cathedral Church of the Imperial City of *Erford*, *&c.* Octavo.

The *Hiſtory of Conformity*, *ſhewing the miſchief of Impoſitions, from the Experience of above One Hundred Years.*

Dr. *Sclater's* Sermon before the Military Company, 4*to.*

Mr. *Jenkins* Sermon at the Funeral of Dr. *Seaman*, 4*to.*

*A Narrative of the Adventures* of Lewis Marott Pilot-Royal of the Gallies of *France*, Octavo.

Mr. *Cowels* Snare Broken, a Treatiſe of the Sabbath-day, Octavo.

A uſeful Table of Expences.

The *Hiſtory* of *Reynard* the *Fox*, both parts, 4*to.*

The *Hiſtory* of the *Fryer* and the *Boy*, both parts, Octavo.

*Natural and Artificial Concluſions*, &c. Octavo.

The *Hiſtory of Guy Earl of Warwick*. 4to.

The Mirror of Martyrs, ſhewing the force of their Faith, the fervency of their Love, the wiſdom of their Sayings, the Patience of their Sufferings: With their Prayers and Preparations for their laſt Farewel.